

Burt Lancaster dies at 80

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actor Burton Lancaster, a Hollywood icon who started his career as a circus acrobat and went on to win an Oscar for the lead role in "Elmer Gantry," has died at the age of 80, his wife Susie said Friday. The actor who suffered a stroke four years ago that left him partially paralysed died late Thursday of a heart attack, his wife said. "He went very, very peacefully. We were together, thank God," she said. "This last week he's been better than ever. It came as a complete surprise." "He was patting my hair and touching my face and he took a sigh and that was it." His career included more than 70 films, both American and European, such as "The Leopard" by Luchino Visconti, "Gunfight at the OK Corral" by John Sturges, "The Train" and "The Birdman of Alcatraz" by John Frankenheimer. Lancaster won the Festival of Venice award in 1962 for this last movie, and he created new sensual images with Deborah Kerr in a scene at the edge of the surf in "From Here to Eternity" in 1953, for which he was nominated at the Academy Awards, based on James Jones' passionate novel about vengeance in pre-war Pearl Harbour.

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U.N. protests Israel's use of shells

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations in New York and its force commander in southern Lebanon have protested to Israel over the firing of anti-personnel shells that killed several civilians in a Lebanese village, U.N. spokesman said on Friday. Reports from the area said Israel late on Wednesday fired tank shells packed with hundreds of steel darts, which the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said were banned under a Geneva convention on methods of warfare. U.N. spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said in a prepared statement: "The secretary-general is deeply concerned by the escalation of tension along the Israeli-Lebanese border, and in particular by a report from the force commander of UNIFIL, Major-General (Trond) Furuhovde (of Norway), that Israel fired anti-personnel shells on the Lebanese village of Nabatiyeh Al-Fawqa, killing several civilians, including a woman and a 14-year-old boy."

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New Parliament session opens today

- King to deliver speech from the Throne
- Peace treaty expected to dominate debate
- Islamists undecided on boycott of Clinton speech
- Srour favourite to win speakership in first round

By Ayman Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein will today open the second ordinary session of the Lower House which will be dominated by debate of the peace treaty that the Kingdom will sign with Israel on Wednesday.

The speech from the Throne, which King Hussein will deliver, will explain the implications of the peace treaty which will be later presented to parliament for ratification before it is signed by the King into law.

All indications are that the session will witness heated debate over the treaty but even Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies say the accord has support among the 80 members of the House. According to reliable parliamentary sources, the treaty enjoys the support of some 55 members of the Lower House.

Having reconciled themselves to their inability to abort the treaty, IAF officials

say they will focus their efforts on blocking any steps towards normalisation of ties with Israel after the treaty is signed.

IAF Secretary Ishak Al Farhan said the treaty poses grave dangers to the nation and the Islamists will work on exposing its dangers to the people as they fight normalisation.

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour said: "We will resist the treaty with all the power that we have" but stressed that the IAF will only employ constitutional and democratic means in its fight against the treaty which he described as "a catastrophe for the country."

But despite their conviction that the majority of lawmakers will support the treaty, Islamists deputies said they will lobby their colleagues to block its ratification.

"We urge all deputies to vote against the treaty," leading IAF Deputy Abdullah Al Akaileh said as Mr. Mansour stressed that fighting peace with Israel is a duty that

law-makers have to shoulder.

While Islamists leaders said they are still studying their options on how to fight the treaty, they indicated that they will not withdraw from Parliament which they said should continue to have opposition to the peace process.

The parliamentary sources said the Islamists constitute the majority of deputies who oppose the treaty and could be joined by some leftist and pan-Arabist lawmakers. But they said the Islamists know they do not have a chance to defeat it.

Over 50 deputies have already expressed their support to the developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace negotiations in a letter they sent to King Hussein upon the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25.

"I am in favour of activating the role of the House and in putting deputies in front of their national responsibilities," against peace with Israel, said Mr. Mansour.

Dr. Farhan said the opinions within the front on how to deal with the peace effort vary from "the far right to the far left" but other Islamists leaders said the majority of the members of the front are in favour of working against the treaty from within the House.

But both IAF Deputies Hammam Sa'id and Mr. Mansour warned that the Islamists' final decision on whether to withdraw from Parliament or not will depend on how the government deals with the House.

"If the government continues to marginalise the role of the House, the view in favour of withdrawing will gain strength," said Dr. Sa'id, who is considered to be a hawkish member of the IAF.

Mr. Mansour echoed the remarks by his colleague, saying if the government enforces on "what is left of democratic practices," more IAF members will push to

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Friday addresses senior army officers (Armed Forces photo).

Israel to quit Jordan's land in three months

Delineation of Israel's eastern border a breakthrough, ends major cause of concern
Italy ready to design Red-Dead canal

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Friday Israel would complete its withdrawal from Jordanian territory in three months after the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan and not nine months as earlier expected.

Crown Prince Hassan also said Israel's agreement to delineate its eastern borders was a great breakthrough that dispelled a long-standing concern of Jordan.

The Crown Prince, addressing army officers, also said those who criticise the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty initiated in Amman on Monday should read the document before criticising the Kingdom.

The Crown Prince, who was closely involved in the peace negotiations with Israel, also revealed that: — Jordan has a commitment from Israel that the Kingdom would get 50 million cubic metres of water immediately, another 50 million cubic metres from dams.

In addition, the Kingdom would also get 50 million cubic metres from a desalination plant and another 15 million cubic metres from other sources, eventually raising the Jordanian share from the region's water source to 215 million cubic metres.

Italy has undertaken to design the proposed canal linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea. The Italian offer was conveyed to Jordan during the recent visit of Rome's foreign minister, Antonio Martino.

Jordan is considering renaming the Sheikh Hussein Bridge west of Irbid as the

Green Valley bridge, the Peace Bridge or the Jordan River Bridge. The Sheikh Hussein Bridge is the site for the second crossing between Jordan and Israel. The first was opened near Aqaba and Eilat on Aug. 8, shortly after His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli prime minister signed the Washington Declaration.

The Crown Prince said that he had been in touch with people who oppose the peace process, asking them how they could criticise the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty when they did not even know what it contained.

The Israeli agreement to delineate its eastern borders removed a major cause of concern for Jordan since it signalled an end to the "talks about Zionist expansion to the east of the River Jordan and about obliterating the East Jordanian identity," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said Jordan has its national will and its pivotal role, and it had charted the treaty without seeking the assistance of anybody.

The Crown Prince warned that any attempt to wage a battle with Jordan will not serve anybody.

Prince Hassan said those who are trying to harm Jordanian-Palestinian relations are not yet aware of the consequences of their deeds.

The Crown Prince said these relations will not be affected by differences with the Palestinian leadership.

Prince Hassan said the Gulf crisis was a severe and crushing blow to the Arab fold, noting that Jordan had adopted its independent position towards the crisis.

Prince Hassan called for the careful reading and verification of what is being said and written now and in the weeks, months and years to come, saying that such careful and thoughtful reading is of great significance.

"When we talk about the battle for sustaining the concepts of security and stability, which lead to talking about the independent national, regional and pan-Arab personality, we will in fact be talking about the need to work hand in hand to achieve the best for all of us," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan stressed that "when we talk about participation in making peace or preparing for it, we will be talking about a project, involving all and affecting all."

Prince Hassan reviewed developments since Israel occupied Palestine in 1948, saying that almost one century after the beginning of the Arab-Zionist conflict, "the exciting thing is that talk about Zionist expansion East of the River Jordan has stopped, and talk about obliterating the East Jordan identity has ended."

However, the Crown Prince said, the Jordanian role is a pivotal role in the region and "we have always sought to find the minimum degree for coordination."

"When we take a political decision we take it out of our conviction, and nobody in the Arab World expects anybody else to speak on his behalf, particularly these days when the will to make a collective decision has diminished," Prince Hassan said.

He said he could not blame

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Clinton to visit Syria on Thursday

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton will go to Syria on Thursday during his Middle East tour, the White House said Friday.

During his stay in Damascus, Mr. Clinton will meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Clinton is due to arrive in Cairo on Wednesday, then visit Jordan, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the White House said in a statement.

It will be the president's first tour of the Middle East and underscores the acceleration of the peace process.

Mr. Clinton is to attend the signing Wednesday of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel — an achievement similar in magnitude to the accord between Israel and Egypt signed some 15 years ago.

Mr. Clinton will address the Knesset, Israel's parliament, then inspect U.S. troops deployed in Kuwait and travel to Cairo to pay homage to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for his role as a mediator in the peace process.

But Syria has been a sticking point in the peace process, and Mr. Clinton will be the first U.S. president to travel to Syria since Richard Nixon visited in 1974.

Syria remains on the U.S. list of countries that support "terrorism."

The president said terrorism is a "serious issue" between the two countries "but I do not believe that we can permit it to keep us from pursuing a comprehensive peace."

Mr. Clinton said his second goal is to push the peace process forward. He is to attend the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan on Wednesday on the border between the two countries.

Asked if he was concerned about his own personal security, Mr. Clinton said that "I have confidence in the security capacity of the governments in the countries that I visit and the work of our own secret service."

Israeli security officials fear Islamic fundamentalists will launch attacks during U.S. President Clinton's visit next week to occupied Jerusalem, Israel's military radio reported Friday.

Police and security agents have been tipped off to be prepared, but have no specific information, the officials said.

The daily newspaper Maariv reported that fears were centred on occupied Jerusalem where Mr. Clinton is expected on Thursday to address parliament.

Israel-PLO liaison group to meet on self-rule, violence

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will head an Israeli team to talks with Palestinians in Cairo next week on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the occupied West Bank and Palestinian attacks, an aide said on Friday.

"We are going to Cairo on Sunday," Mr. Peres' aide Behira Berdugo told Reuters. Asked what the one-day meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee would cover, she said: "I think there are some subjects like the elections and what's happened in the last week in Israel."

Palestinian elections are the next stage of the year-old Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal which launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Elections will pave the way for expanding of Palestinian

self-rule to the rest of the West Bank, still under Israeli occupation.

Palestinians have accused Israel of footdragging on setting up elections after which self-rule would extend to the rest of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's office also confirmed the meeting. It said Arafat adviser Nabil Shaath would lead the Palestinian team.

Since Oct. 9, guerrillas of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas have shot up a West Jerusalem nightspot, killing two people, kidnapped and according to Israel killed an Israeli soldier, and bombed a Tel Aviv bus killing 21 people.

Israel, which has approved measures to confront Hamas, has demanded the Palestinian authority running Gaza and Jericho crack down on Islamic militants.

In Tel Aviv, right-wing Israelis shouting "death to Arabs" traded blows with supporters of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process holding a vigil near the site of the Tel Aviv bus bombing. Hundreds of people packed Dizengoff Square, overlooking the spot of the bombing, for the demonstration called by the Israeli-based Peace bloc.

Scuffles quickly broke out. Signs calling for a continuation of peace efforts with the PLO were ripped from the hands of demonstrators.

"You are a traitor. You should be ashamed of yourself," one right-winger shouted at a demonstrator. "What is more respectful to the dead than this?" was the reply.

Police rushed to the scene to form a protective circle around the Peace bloc members.

Katyushas land in N. Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A barrage of Katyusha rockets fell in northern Israel on Friday, hitting a house but causing no injuries, the army said.

Israel Radio said some residents spent the night in bomb shelters after the first volley of rockets was fired and fell harmlessly in the north Thursday night about 11 p.m.

Israeli army radio said Israeli tanks returned fire. The army spokesman's office said it was unable to say whether targets were hit.

Between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m., there were several rounds of rocket barrages in the north, the army said. A house on a communal farm were hit, but they were empty at the time, an official said.

The location was not given, standard policy designed to prevent anti-Israeli gunners from knowing what they hit.

In Lebanon Thursday, government leaders denounced Israeli artillery barrages that killed seven people and injured four in South Lebanon following a deadly bombing in Tel Aviv.

President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri insisted that Israel withdraw from the border area, a buffer Israel set up to screen it from attacks.

Police reported that five civilians and two Lebanese soldiers were killed in the southern market town of Nabatiyeh by shelling from the "security zone" by Israeli troops and their allied militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), on Wednesday.

The howitzer fire followed guerrilla attacks on the zone, including a roadside bomb ambush that injured two SLA fighters. The fundamentalist Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the ambush.

State-run Beirut radio said the shelling was an Israeli reprisal for Wednesday's Tel Aviv bus attack.

Israel played down the rocket attacks and indicated it was not interested in raising border tensions.

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U.S. and U.K. warn Iraq against reinforcing south

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States and Britain have warned that they would respond with force if Baghdad sends military reinforcements south of the 32nd Parallel in Iraq, diplomats said.

But at the same time Pentagon officials in Washington announced that the deployment of U.S. forces in the region would be scaled back dramatically in response to Iraq's withdrawal of forces from the southern border area near Kuwait.

More than 100,000 U.S. troops were taken off alert and about 17,000 Marines scheduled to go to the Gulf would not be deployed, said the Pentagon officials. The United States still has 26,000 troops in the region, about 5,000 on the ground.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and British Ambassador David Han-

may conveyed the warnings separately to Iraq's U.N. representative, Nizar Hamdoun, said American and British diplomats.

"Iraq may not enhance its military capabilities below the 32nd Parallel. Any violation of this requirement would have serious consequences and would involve appropriate and decisive response by our government," a U.S. official said.

Iraq should immediately withdraw to the north all the forces it sent south after Sept. 20, the official said, putting a date on the start of what Washington charged was a hostile Iraqi deployment near the Kuwait border.

"Iraq may not again utilise its military or other forces in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten neither its neighbours nor U.N. operations in Iraq," the official said.

Britain conveyed a similar warning to Mr. Hamdoun, according to a member of the British U.N. mission.

France was not expected to follow suit for the moment, but French diplomatic sources said French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee met Tuesday with Mr. Hamdoun to underline the importance of a U.N. resolution adopted last weekend.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, in an interview published Friday, made his strongest public statement suggesting that Saddam Hussein must be toppled from power in Iraq.

King Fahd told Egypt's state-owned Al Ahram daily that despite the easing of the crisis over Iraqi troop movements near Kuwait, the Gulf countries will remain alert against new threats from Iraq until the Iraqi leader is gone.

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Duration : Thursday, October 20th - Sunday, October 23rd
Time : 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Exhibition space courtesy of Darat Al Funun Abdel-Hameed Shoman Foundation

Parking: Swiss car park opposite Darat Al Funun main entrance.

U.N. to withdraw forces from Somalia by March

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations plans to withdraw its peacekeeping force from Somalia by March, but the world body will continue trying to provide humanitarian aid without the security force, Security Council President David Hannay said Thursday.

A delegation of the Security Council will be dispatched to Somalia on Monday to carry that message to clan leaders who are still vying for control of the chaotic country.

"Their message will be that, alas, the United Nations efforts in Somalia have been really seriously undermined by the lack of progress towards political reconciliation and by the lack of cooperation on security issues, and that this implies a phased and orderly withdrawal of the UNOSOM," said Mr. Hannay, the British ambassador.

The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) currently has a 17,300-member force, which protects food convoys but makes no attempt to halt clan fighting. It took over from a U.S.-led multinational force in December 1992 to end starvation and threatened hundreds of thousands of people and caused more than two million of them to leave their drought-stricken farms amid the fighting.

Mr. Hannay said the Security Council is willing to contemplate a continued political presence there if that is helpful to the Somalis, and also will do its best to sustain humanitarian operations, although that will require a greater degree of cooperation than has hitherto been forthcoming from the

Somalis. The Security Council decision was passed by an Oct. 14 report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

In the document, the U.N. chief warned that "while some of the major humanitarian objectives have been met, any natural or man-made disaster in Somalia could result in a renewed massive emergency."

"It is essential, therefore, that relief programmes for the most vulnerable segments of the population, support for basic community services and food security and nutritional surveillance programmes be continued. In addition, the repatriation of some 500,000 refugees and the resettlement of up to 400,000 internally displaced persons must be tackled as soon as possible."

Chaos erupted in Mogadishu's streets after the departure of American troops in March. Clan militiamen have roamed and openly roam the capital in trucks mounted with weapons.

As recently as last Saturday, lawlessness in Mogadishu prompted the World Food Programme to evacuate seven of its 18 foreign employees to Nairobi, Kenya. Brenda Barton, a spokeswoman for the U.N. office in Nairobi, said that extortion demands and threats against the agency's workers have increased in the last three weeks. Some Somalis have demanded outrageous payments for repairing equipment damaged in fighting and other jobs.

In recent weeks, intense fighting as erupted near the U.N. compound, formerly the U.S. embassy.

As of the end of September, the United Nations said the following countries had police troops or personnel involved in the peacekeeping force in Somalia: Bangladesh, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, South Korea, Malaysia,

Neapoli, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Somali leader in Uganda

Somalia faction Abdirahman Ali has held talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala and brief him on the Somali reconciliation conference to be held in Mogadishu, he said Thursday.

Mr. Ali, a former Somali envoy to Germany and leader of the Somali National Movement (SNM), told Mr. Museveni that the October 27 conference will aim to reconcile Somalia's 16 warring factions and iron out differences among them to allow formation of a government based on a federal system.

"I am optimistic that this conference will lead to a broad-based government for Somalia after years of anarchy, and the formation of a new federal political system based on a strong regional autonomy," Mr. Ali said in an interview.

"We think Somalia will have two federal states, north and south, with a democratic central government," Mr. Ali said.

"We all support this arrangement and every group will come with a commitment to see the pacification of Somalia which makes this conference different from others before," he added.

Mr. Ali said that 12 of the 16 Somali warring factions had agreed to attend the Oct. 27 conference, with the exception of self-styled Somalia President Ali Madhi Moammar, who is still reluctant to participate, although members of his group of 12 had confirmed their participation.

But negotiations between him and members of his group were still under way to convince him to attend the reconciliation conference," Mr. Ali added.



ISRAEL'S VICTIMS: A Lebanese mother, flanked by her daughter (right) mourns her son who was killed Wednesday with six other civilians by Israeli shelling over Nabatiyeh, in South Lebanon, during their funerals on Thursday in Nabatiyeh (AFP photo)

shelling over Nabatiyeh, in South Lebanon, during their funerals on Thursday in Nabatiyeh (AFP photo)

U.N. cameras keep constant watch at Iraqi factory

AL-QAQA, Iraq (AFP) — A yellow sign stuck to the walls of Iraq's largest explosives factory warns it is forbidden to block the view of U.N. cameras permanently monitoring everything going on.

The United Nations wants to know about everything taking place here down to the smallest detail, and in a rare show of openness Iraqi authorities allowed foreign journalists into the site to show how they are complying with U.N. resolutions.

The cameras placed in the Al Qaqah ballistics site about 40 kilometres south of Baghdad are directly linked to the U.N.'s permanent monitoring centre, operating round-the-clock from a hotel room in the capital.

It is the first time in the history of international relations that such a control system to monitor the military capacity of a country has been set in place.

The aim is to ensure that the factory is in line with

U.N. Resolution 687 and no longer making missiles with a range exceeding 150 kilometres.

Two of the U.N. resolutions adopted after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 demanded that Baghdad get rid of all its weapons of mass destruction, and allow U.N. observers to install a long-term weapons monitoring system.

This site was built in the 1980s with help from the former Yugoslavia, the Iraqi Military Industrialisation Commission revealed. It was partially destroyed by bombing during the 1991 Gulf war, when Iraq was ousted from Kuwait.

One camera mounted on a wall was surveying an Italian-built machine manufacturing solid fuel needed for rocket propulsion.

The camera registers the slightest movement in the room," said Hussam Mohammad Amin, responsible for coordinating between Iraq and the United Nations.

It was fitted with a U.N. tag stamped with a serial number to ensure that it could not be tampered with, moved or replaced.

In another building, stands used for testing missile engines were watched by infrared cameras which turned as they detected a heat source when the machines were switched on.

The same warning was given at the entrance to the building.

"Forbidden to touch the cameras, to cut the electricity, to switch off the light, to obscure the field of vision."

"In all 58 cameras have been installed in 12 sites, and the first became operational in September 1993," Mr. Amin said.

But he added they were not the only means of control.

"Four or five times a week U.N. inspectors make surprise visits, overflying in helicopters to take photos, and taking water, air and earth samples to analyse them,"

The U.N. committee responsible for dismantling Iraq monitors a total of 183 sites, 75 used for biological weapons, 35 ballistics, 50 chemical and 23 nuclear, now that the first phase of the destruction of Iraqi banned arms is complete.

Mr. Amin added that a total of 80 staff from the commission, known as UNSCOM, most of them inspectors in the areas of ballistics, based in Baghdad to supervise the system.

Iraq has argued that crippling sanctions imposed on the country four years ago should be lifted because it has complied with the U.N. resolutions on arms control.

But after an Iraqi troops build-up on the border with Kuwait two weeks ago, Washington has led repeated calls that Baghdad must also agree to recognise the emirate's sovereignty and border and comply with all other U.N. resolutions stemming from the Gulf war.

Khartoum defends 'brutal' razing of squatter camps

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan, angered by U.S. charges of brutality over the demolition of a large urban squatter settlement, has defended its actions and accused Washington of stepping up a "hostile campaign" against Khartoum.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement published in newspapers on Friday the demolition of settlements in the Khuddeir area of Omdurman, twin city of the capital Khartoum was "normal, legal and usually takes place worldwide."

A number of people were reported killed in clashes with troops when bulldozers first rumbled in last Saturday to start the demolition of an area where some people say they have been living for over 20 years.

The United States described the incident as "unjustifiable" and "a clear abuse of force by the government of Sudan."

"The incident underscores the brutality and callousness of the policy of forcible resettlement of squatters in the Khartoum area which has been proceeding for years," it said.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry "expressed sorrow over the United States' exploitation of the incident in order to escalate the hostile campaign against Sudan's civilisational

orientation."

Shielded from angry squatters by a ring of soldiers, the bulldozers have been razing areas of mud-walled houses in the Nile-side neighbourhood all week after the government decided it should be rebuilt as a prime residential area.

A few determined squatters, sitting under makeshift shelters, and guarding their few possessions, have shunned the government lorries carrying people off to camps miles outside the city where they have little chance of finding work.

"I came here with my family in 1976. The government told us we would be allowed to live in the city but now they have destroyed our home and tried to force us out to a camp," said 46-year-old Abbas.

He told Reuters he and a few other squatters would not move from the rubble of their former homes until Sudan's National Council ruled on a complaint they had raised against the forced relocation.

The squatters say hundreds of troops cordoned off the area before dawn last Saturday before the bulldozers moved in. A few dozen men, women and children gathered to protest the destruction of their houses. When they started throwing stones at the bulldozers the army opened

fire, they said.

A number of squatters said eight people were killed in the clash. They said a dozen people, including women, were injured and about 100 were arrested.

Western diplomats said they heard reports that between four and 16 people died.

"The concerned authorities were only removing illegal houses within an action preceded by legal measures," the ministry said in the first public acknowledgement of the incident.

"Despite these measures, a number of citizens committed some acts of not which the police managed to control," it added, without mentioning casualties.

Khartoum residents say 13 people were killed in a similar clash one year ago.

Authorities in Khartoum and Omdurman, where wave after wave of people fleeing drought and war elsewhere in Sudan have settled, are pursuing a vision of radical urban restructuring.

Hassan Al Tourabi, regarded as the power behind Sudan's military Islamic government, described the reconstruction plans this week as "the best thing which has happened to Khartoum."

The projects often involve forced resettlement of squatters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prosecutor wants Lebanon deputy pursued

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's prosecutor-general demanded on Thursday that authorities lift a deputy's parliamentary immunity so he can be prosecuted for drugs dealing. Prosecutor Munif Quedat submitted an official request to Justice Minister Bahij Tabbara saying there was evidence linking Yahya Shamas, a deputy representing a constituency in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, to drugs dealing. The interrogation of some narcotics dealers "revealed acts and evidence that necessitates pursuing Deputy Yahya Shamas with the crime of drug dealing," said Mr. Quedat's request, which was published in the official National News Agency. It was the first such request in Lebanon's history. A parliamentary vote is necessary to lift the immunity of any deputy. If convicted, the Shiite Muslim deputy faces up to seven years in jail. Before the recent eradication of its drugs crops, the Bekaa Valley was a haven for the illegal trade in drugs during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

Algerian wins Francophone writing award

PARIS (AP) — Algerian poet and novelist Mohammed Dib on Thursday won the Francophone Grand Prix, the highest literary award bestowed by the Academie Française. Mr. Dib was born in Tiemcen, Algeria and has lived in France since 1959. He has written more than 20 works, the best known of which is his "Algeria" trilogy of "La Grande Maison" (The Big House) of 1952, "Le Incendie" (the fire) of 1954 and "Le Metier d'un Tisser" (The Loom) of 1957. His most recent work is "Le Desert Sans Detour" (Desert Without Detour) of 1992. It marks the first time a North African has won the Academie's grand prix, bestowed on writers who produce works in French.

Syria sacks officials for taking bribes

DAMASCUS (AP) — Labour authorities have dismissed scores of government employees, some of them high-ranking officials, Wednesday on charges of bribery and misusing their powers, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported. It said the state-run central body for

labour control did not elaborate on the reasons for the dismissals beyond citing "bribery and misconduct." But the list of sacked officials reported by SANA included senior officials such as a departmental director at the General Establishment for Foodstuffs and a regional director of the "Commercial Bank of Syria. Most of the dismissed officials worked in state banks, food establishments, the state electricity company, the General Organisation of Internal Trade, the General Establishment of Tobacco and the General Company for Building Materials. The dismissals came amid moves by the Syrian government to liberalise the economy after decades of tight central control and attract large-scale foreign investment. Investment law 10, passed in May 1991, has encouraged Syrian and Arab investors to set up thousands of new projects worth an estimated \$3.8 billion, according to trade officials. This has widened the potential for graft and the government appears to be purging the massive bureaucracy to head off problems with potential investors.

Ministers urge fight against fundamentalism

RABAT (AFP) — Ministers for Islamic affairs from 41 Muslim countries urged late Thursday that fundamentalist tendencies be resisted, notably by promoting a gentler Islamic culture as a counterweight. After two days of talks here, the ministers came out unanimously against religious fanaticism, which they said was infiltrating youth, as well as Muslim minorities in other countries. To counter it, one of their numerous resolutions called for the spread of Islamic culture and the teaching of "the true precepts" of an Islam that was "tolerant and fair." The ministers also urged states to fight against illiteracy and to expand knowledge of Arabic and of the Koran. Saying that Islam's heritage must be preserved, the conference deplored the destruction of mosques in India and Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for an end to attacks against Muslims in those countries. At the end of the meeting Syria's Religious Affairs Minister Abdul Majid Tarabulsi voiced strong hopes that the resolutions would be implemented, saying that those of previous such conferences had remained a dead letter.

Kuwait says efforts boosted to stop maid abuse

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, trying to stamp out abuse of domestic servants from the Philippines, has launched a study on maids who flee their employers.

"Something really has to be done to solve this most pressing problem," Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Ahma Al Kulaib told reporters on Tuesday.

Mr. Kulaib is due to hold talks with visiting Philippine Labour Secretary Nieves Confesor on Thursday to improve procedures for solving labour disputes involving Filipinos.

The ministry on Tuesday began interviewing 277 Filipinas who have run away from employers and are living in their embassy's overseas workers welfare administration building.

"We want to know the prevailing problem so we can find a way to minimise it not settle the problem once and for all," said Mr. Kulaib after attending some of the interviews.

There are 46,000 Philippine expatriates in the country, most of them working as labourers, clerks or domestic servants.

They form part of a one million-strong army of expatriate manpower that performs manual and middle-management tasks for the 650,000 Kuwaitis.

About 1,210 Filipina domestic helpers sought refuge at the embassy between January and October this year. Of these, 640 eventually found other jobs in the emirate and about 290 were repatriated using funds from Philippine community groups.

Embassy figures show most of the maids allege verbal abuse or non-payment. A minority of cases alleged rape or assault.

Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah last year paid for the repatriation of hundreds of maids who had been living at the embassy refuge.

Kuwaitis claim most of the allegations are fabricated or exaggerated by maids to get out of contracts or to go home because of loneliness or inability to cope with the job.

But diplomats and some Kuwaitis say much of the problem is an illegal trade in visas conducted both in Manila and around the Gulf that is fuelled by strong demand for cheap labour and has flooded Kuwait with unskilled and unwanted workers.

They also say wide-ranging labour reforms are necessary. The ministry is studying introduction of a minimum wage and standardising requirements for the housing and welfare of expatriate labour. Last month it arrested 250 people for providing illegal work permits.

Asians often pay large sums before they ever step on the plane to the Gulf for the opportunity to obtain a job in the oil-rich region. Domestic and cleaners are sometimes paid as little as 30 dinars (\$100) a month.

Newspapers quoted Mr. Kulaib as saying he knew of some cases where agents demanded three to six month advance salaries from the employers under the pretext of handing it over to the maids.

In most cases the sums were not passed on to the maids, he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... Alice Au Pays Morcelles
17:30 ... Les Six Compagnons
18:00 ... News in French
18:30 ... Grands Galops
19:00 ... News in Hebrew
19:30 ... World Echo
19:50 ... Black Beauty
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Bob
21:00 ... Murder she Wrote
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Feature Film: "Rocket"

PRAYER TIMES

4:42 ... Fair
5:00 ... (Sunrise) Doha
5:20 ... Dhaher
5:40 ... Ac
5:50 ... Waghreb
6:00 ... Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative warm warm conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds westerly light. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.

Amman 16 / 29
Aqaba 22 / 35
Deserts 14 / 32

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 33 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jihad Zyadah 881148
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849252
Dr. Arafa Ashabb 602507
Dr. Sa'ad Ali 788285
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 657055
Nairokh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 657660
Najib pharmacy 847632

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Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 657660
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 192 621111 637777
Blood Bank 617101
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 691455
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 633191
Abdali Telephone Repairs 611101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malinas, F. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664174
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Munshor Hospital 891611/15
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900569
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)989090

BRID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)747100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 ... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
08:45 ... New Delhi (RJ)
09:15 ... Dhahran (RJ)
09:30 ... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 ... Colombo (RJ)
10:00 ... Beirut (RJ)
15:00 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:50 ... London, Berlin (RJ)
16:55 ... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:30 ... London, Berlin (RJ)
20:50 ... Vienna (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:30 ... Vienna (OS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:45 ... Beirut (RJ)
06:45 ... Frankfurt (add) (RJ)
07:50 ... Paris (add) (RJ)
07:50 ... Aqaba (RJ)
07:50 ... Aqaba, Amsterdam, Vienna (add) (RJ)
11:30 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:55 ... Paris (RJ)
12:00 ... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
09:15 ... Dhahran (RJ)
12:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
12:55 ... London (RJ)
13:30 ... Madrid (RJ)
19:45 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30 ... Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 ... Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 ... Beirut (ME)
13:50 ... Vienna (OS)
19:15 ... Dubai (EK)
20:15 ... Sanas (1Y)
20:55 ... Cairo (MS)
09:25 ... Amsterdam (KL)

RIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	720 / 500
Banana	680
Banana (Mukamar)	620
Cabbage	110 / 80
Carrot	300/200
Cauliflower	300 / 200
Celentane	280 / 180
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	350 / 220
Eggplant	280 / 180
Garlic	1300/900
Onion (green)	420 / 300
Onion (dry)	1000 / 800
Leemon	270 / 170
Marrow (large)	150 / 80
Marrow (small)	340 / 220
Olve (green)	280 / 300
Onion (green)	420 / 300
Onion (dry)	1000 / 800
Pepper (hot)	350 / 240
Pepper (sweet)	300 / 200
Potato	420 / 300
Spinach	280 / 180
Tomato	370 / 220
String beans	750 / 450

هذا من الجول



THE CULTURE OF SPAIN: Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday evening attends a dinner and show in patronising the events of Spanish Cultural Week, which included musical performances, flamenco dances and mime shows. Queen Noor toured the Spanish heritage exhibition, which includes a display of gold and black Toledo handcrafted jewellery. Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Juan Manuel Cabrera presented Queen Noor with a Spanish sword dating back to the 11th century and Spanish Friendship and Peace Medal. Attending the activities, which were staged at the Forte Grand Hotel, were Prince Ali Ben Nayef, Princess Wijdan Ali and the director of the Spanish Cultural Centre (Petra photo)

NGO advocates of children's rights decide to form comprehensive network

By Martina Sabra
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a bid to improve and strengthen communication and cooperation for the sake of Jordanian children and their rights as put down in the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, Thursday, more than 30 Jordanian non-government organisations (NGOs) active on behalf of children decided to establish a national network.

More than 160 participants, among them several children and youth, entrusted a 15-head-preparatory committee to work out a proposal concerning the organisational structure of the network and to convocate a founding assembly within the next week.

Members of the preparatory committee represent big and small Jordanian NGOs, among them Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Queen Alia Fund for Social

Development (QAF), the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped, the Parents of Handicapped Children as well as the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) and the Jordanian branch of Amnesty International.

The NGOs, under the umbrella of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) area office in Amman, came together at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Amman. In her opening address, UNICEF representative Victoria Rialp said that worldwide, children are denied the rights that would enable them to survive, develop fully and participate actively.

"In both developing and industrialised countries, children cope daily with street violence, pressure to drugs, sexual exploitation and abuse," Mrs. Rialp added,

stressing the damaging effects of widespread child labour. "For the sake of both individual and global development, we need to understand the concept of (children's) rights," Mrs. Rialp said.

The panelists, among them former Minister of Information and current Upper House Member Leila Sharaf, Emad Amr of Jordan's branch of Amnesty International, and lawyer and human rights activist Asma Khader, mentioned the progress that Jordan has made in the last decades to improve children's life conditions, particularly in the field of education.

Nevertheless, all speakers regretted the absence of valuable statistics and serious field research, as well as the inexistence of a broad social debate about children's problems and their rights in Jordan.

"We need to talk openly about violence at home," said Dr. Sima Babous, in-

formation communication officer at UNICEF in Amman, "and we must raise awareness of children's rights on all levels, by using the media, providing training courses and elaborating human-rights-related curricula."

Mrs. Sharaf underlined the importance of NGOs to the promotion of children's rights, given that "NGOs have a better access to the basis of society than official institutions and... due to voluntary work, can provide social services which the state may not be able to give."

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1989. So far, 153 countries have ratified the convention which set basic standards concerning the right of the child to survival, development, protection and participation and which binds its signatories legally to comply with its provisions.

Jordan ratified the convention in 1991 and submitted its initial report to the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in April this year.

Mrs. Khader called the report a positive step forward, but criticised it as partly inappropriate.

"It should have been elaborated by experts instead of the Foreign Ministry, and discussed on a wider societal basis before being submitted," Mrs. Khader said.

"Though having ratified the convention, and in spite of recommendations to Jordan issued by the CRC, Jordan has not accepted some basic children's rights fixed by the convention, e.g. the right to adoption and the right to religious freedom," she told the Jordan Times.

Mrs. Khader suggested the next CRC report on children in Jordan, due in 1999, be coordinated by a non-governmental body.

Majali urges conversion of CSCC into non-profit, government-owned company

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday called for converting the Civil Servants Consumer Corporation (CSCC) into a non-profit government-owned company, collecting a minimal profit to cover its administrative and operational costs.

The Prime Minister's call was made during a visit to the CSCC where he was received by Supply Minister Adel Qudab and the corporation's Director General Abdul Hadi Mahayri.

The CSCC has market outlets in all the major cities of the country providing basic commodities, food stuffs and appliances at discounted prices to civil servants and their families.

Dr. Majali said that converting the CSCC into a

government-owned company will give it flexibility to purchase goods from international markets at reasonable prices and will free it from bureaucratic procedures.

The prime minister stressed the need to open new CSCC branches in various towns and villages.

Dr. Majali called on the corporation to either sell or re-export the goods in stock, whose expiry date is drawing close instead of keeping them stockpiled, and in the end being forced to destroy them.

Mr. Qudab, who is also chairman of the Board of Directors of the CSCC, said the corporation employs 800 people and has a capital of JD 40 million. The corporation enjoys yearly exemptions from customs duties totalling JD 6.5 million, he said.

Governor urges amendment to law Mayors should be held accountable for abuse of authority — Fayeze Abbadi

IRBID (J.T.) — Irbid Governor Fayeze Abbadi in an interview with Al Ufuq weekly, demanded the government amend the Municipality Laws in order that mayors will be held accountable for abuse of authority.

Mr. Abbadi, who is also head of a committee appointed by the government to run the affairs of the Irbid municipality until general municipal elections take place in June next year, said his committee had discovered serious violations of laws and regulations, especially in the issuing of building licenses in areas not assigned for any construction activity.

He said the committee also found that the municipal council had given licenses for private home construction disregarding required specifications for buildings in Irbid. The Committee also found that the council had shirked its responsibility in collecting dues from land and home-owners, said Mr. Abbadi.

Another violation, he said, is the illegal appointment of persons whose services had been terminated by an order of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs or the Audit Bureau.

The government-appointed committee running the municipality now has found that 83 such employees, some of whom are over the mandatory retirement age of 60, have been re-appointed after they had received their compensation from the Social Security Corporation (SSC), added Mr. Abbadi.

As such, he said these appointments are illegal and furthermore there were no vacancies at the time of these staff reappointments and therefore the committee has decided to lay off some of those illegally appointed workers.

Mr. Abbadi said that 70 per cent of the municipal council's budget is spent on workers wages adding that by laying off employees the committee is expected to save funds for the municipality's urgent services.

Ministry, UNESCO to hold vocational training seminar Teachers' extra allowance to be implemented next year — Rawabdeh

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education Friday announced that in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), it will conduct a seminar which will among other things focus on ways to encourage Arab women to take up vocational and technical training.

Developing vocational training programmes in Arab states and training young men and women in the trades most needed in Arab labour markets will also be taken up by the delegates, who represent Jordan and 10 other

Arab countries as well as some foreign states.

The five-day meeting, which is being held at the Jerusalem Hotel here, will also focus on cooperation among Arab states in vocational training programmes.

The Ministry of Education has prepared a programme for the participating delegation to visit vocational training centres in Jordan, according to the statement. It also said that Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh was scheduled to open the meetings which were paved for a meeting of experts in vocational training in

Bahrain last March.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rawabdeh was quoted Friday as saying that His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government to give teachers an extra professional allowance would only be implemented next year.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said that such a measure requires a change in the present regulations and allocation of additional funds, which can only take place in the 1995 fiscal budget which goes into effect in January 1995.

Variations on movement and immobility Rafi Nasiri exhibits at French Cultural Centre

By Martina Sabra
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Inner landscapes? Maybe. Certainly, and first of all, light. Then colours: blue, brown, grey. Masses moving and melting into each other, interrupted by a red or turquoise calligraphic sign here and there (a combination of the Arabic letter waw and the cipher 9, says the artist). Finally, surfaces: acrylic on paper, acrylic on Chinese rice paper, acrylic on canvas.

Rafi Nasiri's most recent "works on paper," 24 of which are currently exhibited at the French Cultural Centre, are beautiful essays on the very nature of creativity — an attempt to visualise that fragile turning point between contemplation and action, where a new idea, a new expression gains its shape.

"... Nasiri paints inner landscapes that demand to be visited," says French art critic N. Favreliere.

And, alluding to the fact that nature has long been Mr. Nasiri's central subject of interest, Iraqi poet and art critic May Muzaffar writes in her essay special to the exhibition: "The duality of sky

and earth is here transformed into a duality of movement and immobility."

Most of the exhibits are painted on Chinese paper, which, as Mr. Nasiri puts it, poses a particular artistic challenge because of its structure: "You have to work very quickly, otherwise you'll be lost. Sometimes I feel the paper is working with me and not vice-versa," he explains. "It is a very spiritual moment." Mr. Nasiri, according to his own words, combines modern abstract painting with elements of Arabic calligraphy, thus trying to find an artistic expression that is both universal and Arab at the same time.

His interest in calligraphy dates back to his early years when he studied graphics in Beijing.

"China influenced me a lot," he says, "art for them (the Chinese) is a life. The function of art is to enjoy life."

Born in Baghdad in 1940, Mr. Nasiri studied painting and graphic design in Beijing and Lisbon as well as in Baghdad.

In 1969, he joined an Iraqi group of artists called "The New Vision," which tried to develop an authentic Arab

modern art.

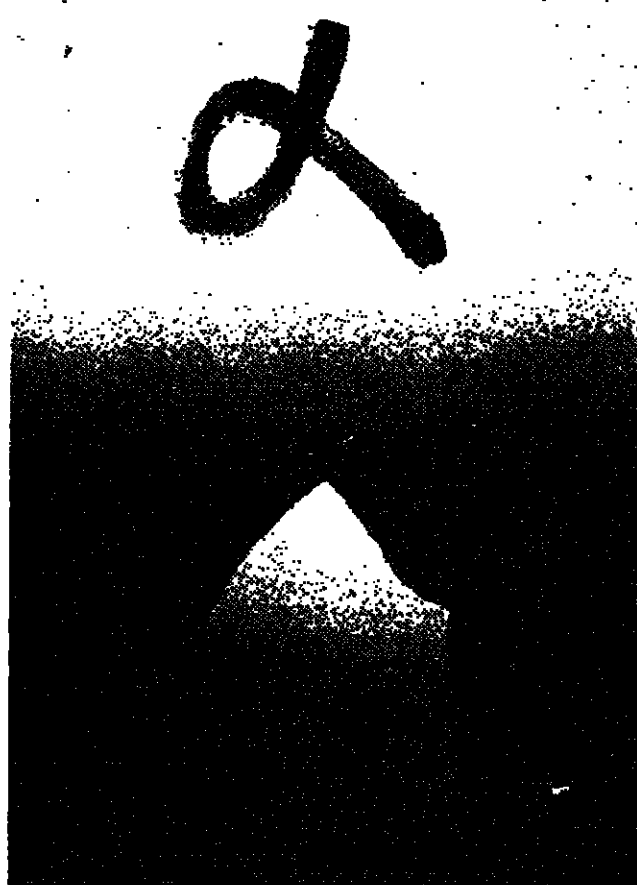
Mr. Nasiri worked as a lecturer at the University of Baghdad Faculty of Fine Arts until 1989, when he established his own workshop. He left Iraq in 1991.

Today, Mr. Nasiri is one of the few existing graphic artists in the Arab World. Through numerous one-man shows and collective exhibitions all over Europe and in almost all Arab countries, he has gained wide international reputation.

Besides painting and teaching, Mr. Nasiri has illustrated books, designed posters and done the layout for a cultural magazine.

Since he arrived in Jordan three years ago, Mr. Nasiri has embarked on various projects aiming to promote fine arts in the country. In October 1993, together with the National Gallery of Fine Art and the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, he established a training centre for professional and amateur artists at Darat Al Funun.

Currently, Mr. Nasiri works as a full-time lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Education at Yarmouk University, where in 1995 a proper faculty of fine arts is planned.



Acrylic on paper by Rafi Nasiri

Spanish Cultural Week

الاسبوع الثقافي الاسباني

Under the Patronage of
Her Majesty Queen Noor

"Yllana"

Comical Mime Group Show

With a superb Gourmet Dinner
prepared by Spain's top Chefs
Ramón Roteta
Juan Ignacio Zubizarain
José M. Gonzalez "Currito"

Ambrosial gastronomy with hilarious
comedy

Feel Spain's passion for life

Oct 22 & 23
Dinner Show JD30. Forte Grand 9:30 pm
Inclusive of tax and service

Tickets sold at Forte Grand Amman
For details, please call 696511

All foods, ingredients and spices are being flown in fresh from Spain. And a connoisseurs' dream of Spain's finest wines included in the price of dinner & show tickets.

All proceeds to the benefit of Noor Al Hussein Foundation

WHAT'S GOING ON

SPANISH CULTURAL WEEK

- "Ciudad de Sevilla" flamenco show at the Palace of Culture, King Hussein Sports City at 7:30 p.m.
- Gourmet dinner with "Yllana" Comical Mime Group shown at Forte Grand Hotel Amman at 9:30 p.m. (all proceeds to go to benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation)

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

- Film in Italian (with English subtitles) entitled "Forte Aperte" (Open Doors) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.
- Film in Italian (with English subtitles) entitled "Morte Di Un Matematico Napoletano" (Death of a Neapolitan Mathematician) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (all proceeds to go to the benefit of the Occupational Therapy College).

EXHIBITIONS

- Two exhibitions: "Paintings by Italian

- painter Armando Appaja, and a special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Mountains" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings of Iraqi artist Jabbar Mejbai at Alla Art Gallery.
- Bani Hamida exhibition of "Nomadic Inspirations" — show of reflections of original bedouin designs (including a collection of headwoven rugs, runners, and cushions) at Darat Al Funun.
- Art exhibition by Ahmad Subaih at Baladna Art Gallery
- Exhibition of art by Sanaa' Hindi entitled "Leaves" at Orfali Art Gallery.
- Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery.
- The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery.
- Exhibition by several Iraqi artists at Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- Exhibition of abstract art by Rafi Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

Announces the Invitation to Tender No. 30 F/94

JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 30F/94 for the supply, supervision of erection and commissioning of (3) units hydraulic backhoe shovels for Eshidiya Mines.

The bid is financed by Islamic Development Bank (IDB)-Jeddah.

The bidding documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday 10th November 1994, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of J.D. (175.-) for each set of bidding documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time, Tuesday 29th Nov. 1994.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

هذا من الال

Haiti moves toward normalcy

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — People are lining up for gasoline here in the capital and for jobs up north in Cap-Haitien as Haiti takes its first wobbly steps toward becoming a normal society.

But newly returned President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, almost a week after being returned to his homeland from exile on U.S. wings, still hasn't made a decision on his prime minister.

An unruly line of about 15 vehicles brought traffic to a standstill Thursday afternoon after the first legally available gasoline was delivered to a service station at a downtown intersection.

The gas was selling for \$3 a gallon (3.8 litres) under government price controls, a stark contrast to the high of more than \$35 under the international trade embargo lifted Sunday.

Many motorists, accustomed to hoarding any goods available during the long embargo, brought plastic containers to fill in addition to their automobile tanks.

At the area known as Kuwait City where black-market sellers hawked gasoline for months, pouring some smuggled in from the Dominican Republic from plastic bottles into car tanks, only a few gallons (litres) remained for sale. A work crew shovelled trash into a truck.

About 500 people showed

up before dawn Thursday in the north-coastal city of Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second-largest city, to vie for 30 unskilled jobs for a U.S. engineering company beginning rehabilitation work under international aid programmes.

Even the judicial system started showing signs of function, as two dozen alleged looters were brought to court Thursday by Haitian police, backed by U.S. troops. The suspects were held in connection with the plundering and burning of an appliance store Sunday night.

The U.S. military has encouraged Haitian police to resume patrolling and crime fighting, despite the people's hostility because of the oppressive role that police played in the old military regime.

In Cap-Haitien, international monitors this week began training Haitians recruited in the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to be part of an interim police force. Some Haitian police worked under the old regime who the U.S. army cleared were also being trained.

Across the street from the National Palace, in front of an army barracks largely avoided before the coup leaders who toppled Mr. Aristide in 1991 packed up and left Haiti, a group of men loudly debated who Mr. Aristide should pick for his prime

minister. Inside the white-columned building, Mr. Aristide consulted with allies and opposition parties alike on the makeup of a revamped government expected to be announced shortly.

The front-runner to be prime minister in the new cabinet was Claudette Werleigh, Mr. Aristide's foreign minister, a source close to the government said. She would replace interim Prime Minister Robert Malval.

Such consultations are new for Mr. Aristide, who during his seven months as president antagonised many Haitian politicians by confining appointments to his own close-knit group of supporters, many of them inexperienced.

Mr. Werleigh, 48, was social affairs minister during a brief civilian caretaker government that preceded Mr. Aristide's administration.

The proposal for U.S. trade preferences for Haiti is included in Mr. Aristide's plan for emergency economic recovery. With his return, Haiti will enjoy the same lower U.S. tariffs as most Caribbean nations under the decade-old Caribbean Basin Initiative.

But Mr. Aristide's advisers say that's not enough to revive the export sector of an economy that nearly ground to a halt under the three-year

military regime and stifling embargoes.

The Aristide government wants the United States to completely lift tariffs on all imports from Haiti and eliminate some import quotas. However, a source close to the president, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged that total elimination of import restrictions is only a starting point for bargaining.

There will be no speedup in the way U.S. troops in Haiti have been taking weapons from paramilitary forces, the admiral in charge of the mission said Thursday.

"To disarm a country such as Haiti is a pretty tough assignment," Adm. Paul D. Miller told reporters at a Pentagon briefing.

"The pace of our activity is correct. I don't have any plans to enhance the efforts that are ongoing," the admiral said, adding at another point, "the weapons control issue has been quite successful."

Adm. Miller had been asked about published remarks from an unnamed senior official of the United Nations who said Haitian paramilitary forces have not been stripped of their weapons quickly enough.

U.S. troops have been in control in Haiti since mid-September, but random violence continues.



Some forty Haitians arrested by the U.S. military for various crime like looting, sit in a truck under the supervision of a Haitian policeman (centre) and international police observer outside the military detention centre in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. The Haitians were being moved to court for their pre-trial arraignment (AFP photo)

U.K. press calls for drastic surgery on government sleaze

LONDON (AFP) — Beleaguered Prime Minister John Major must perform "serious surgery" on his discredited Tory government, the British press urged Friday, as a "cash-for-questions" storm continued to dominate the media.

Junior Northern Ireland Minister Tim Smith resigned Thursday after he admitted he received money from Mohammad Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods store, in return for tabling parliamentary questions.

Pressure continued to mount for Corporate Affairs Minister Neil Hamilton, also accused of accepting cash, to resign. Mr. Hamilton flatly denied the allegations, and Thursday issued a writ against the Guardian which had broken the story in that day's edition.

Friday's Guardian detailed the alleged extravagance of Mr. Hamilton and his wife at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, where he was said to have run up a £4,221 (\$6,331) bill for a six-night stay in September 1987 — understood to have been paid for by Mr. Fayed, owner

of the hotel. In editorial comment, the centre-left paper charged: "There is distrust and a feeling of decay. It has to be dealt with in the open."

And it urged: "Let the sloppy mess of non-regulation surrounding parliamentary lobbying activities at last be tightened. Let the government give a lead... Such sickness demands serious surgery."

An editorial in the centre-right Independent concluded: "Because he is widely thought to be weak and anxious to be liked, Mr. Major needs to be especially brutal in fulfilling his stated aim of rooting out wrong-doing."

Friday's conservative Telegraph acknowledged: "The government seems to be at a loss to know how to contend with the outbreak of 'sleaze'."

The Times, also pro-government, added to pressure for Mr. Hamilton's resignation. "If Mr. Hamilton is to contest these allegations successfully, it were better that he try to do so from a

position, however temporary, on the backbenches," it said.

The paper also said: "The rules governing payment to MPs, in particular, are outdated and should be amended to suit the modern parliamentary culture of lobbyists and consultancy fees... An independent inquiry is needed to mark fresh boundaries for today's politicians."

Lobbyist Ian Greer also issued a writ against the Guardian Thursday, but the paper in its front-page story Friday again quoted Mr. Fayed as saying Mr. Greer had promised to deliver the two MPs.

They would ask questions in parliament linked to a government probe into the 1985 takeover of Harrods by the Fayed brothers in a bitter battle with Tiny Rowland's Lorrho.

Mr. Fayed was quoted as saying: "Every month we got a bill for parliamentary services and it would vary between £8,000 (\$12,000) and £10,000 (\$15,000), depending on the number of questions.



Princess Diana goes public briefly in New York

NEW YORK (Agencies) — For one brief moment, New Yorkers got a glimpse of Princess Diana as photographers and fans staked out her posh hotel here.

Princess Diana popped out into the crowd, pausing long enough to accept a bouquet of pink roses from a 10-year-old boy.

"Thanks a lot," said Princess Diana as she accepted the flowers. The princess then headed off for Washington where she was to spend the weekend with the Brazilian ambassador's family.

"She's fled to America, basically, to get away from the voracious Fleet Street rat pack, who's been following this incredible soap opera saga of the unhappy wives of Windsors," said Richard Mineards, of the London Daily Express.

The princess is embroiled in the latest dispute to rock the royals: Reports and rumours that she and her husband, Prince Charles, will soon turn their separation into a divorce.

Britain is also stirring with the publication of an authorised biography of her husband in which it is reported that he never loved her and that his father forced him to marry her.

Princess Diana, who arrived in the United States for a private visit Wednesday, will spend a few days on the East Coast.

Some 120 reporters and fans of Princess Diana staked out her upper east side hotel all day for that single glimpse.

"Is there anything more radiant?" said Sarah Farrell, a London wedding gown designer who waited five hours for her first close look at the princess. "So stunning, and smiling as always."

"What's the matter with Charles?"

Until her brief appearance, the day's only excitement came when actor Robin Williams, in New York for a political fund-raiser, ducked out of the hotel Thursday.

Photographers snapped pictures, camera crews gave chase, and reporters fired questions at the star of the movie Mrs. Doubtfire.

"Did you see the princess?" one person shouted.

"No," said Williams.

The follow-up: "Was she on your floor?"

Williams: "Not that I noticed."

End of excitement.

U.K. dismisses spying allegations

OTTAWA (R) — A new book by a former Canadian spy alleges Canada's intelligence agency spied on two ministers in former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in 1983, but Lady Thatcher's successor John Major dismissed the allegation as "claptrap."

Mike Frost, a former intelligence officer of the top-secret Communications Security Establishment, said in the book Spyworld that the request to spy on the ministers came from Britain's government communications headquarters, and was carried out from a Canadian diplomatic mission in London.

He said the aim was to find out if both ministers were "on side" with her policies.

Lady Thatcher herself was not immediately available for comment.

But in London Thursday Mr. Major dismissed the report as "claptrap" and told a questioner in parliament: "The fact that in the middle of your question you could not even keep a straight face shows just how seriously everybody in the House really regards the absolute absurdity of that particular allegation."

Spyworld was written by Frost, who worked for the spy agency for 19 years from 1972 to 1990, and by Michel

Gratton, a former press secretary to then Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Mr. Frost told a news conference Thursday that he did not directly take part in the mission but was briefed before and after it took place by a colleague in the Canadian security agency.

"I did not do the work myself. The way I wrote it in the book is the way I remember it to the best of my knowledge," Mr. Frost told reporters.

Mr. Frost quotes his colleague, whose pseudonym he gives as Frank Bowman, as saying: "It seems as if Margaret Thatcher thinks two of the ministers in her cabinet are not 'on side.' She wants to find out if they are."

The alleged spying took place in 1983 when Lady Thatcher was nearing the end of her first mandate, and had just shuffled her cabinet.

"Bowman flew over and set up an intercept post right inside Canada's MacDonald House (Canadian diplomatic mission in London). The intercept was done during normal business hours, but was extended at both ends, so that the ministers could be caught either on their way to work or on the road back home," Mr. Frost writes in the book.

U.S., Pakistan discuss obstacles to better ties

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Pakistani officials sought Thursday to repair relations strained by allegations of Pakistan's purported support of terrorism in Kashmir and efforts to acquire nuclear and other advanced weapons.

While "Pakistan is no longer the object of special attention regarding any support it may be giving to terrorist groups... we have made clear to the government of Pakistan that — if justified by the facts — any country could be named a state supporter of terrorism under U.S. law at any time," the U.S. State Department declared Thursday night.

"We continue to monitor the situation closely," it said in a statement.

Earlier Thursday, the department said Pakistan's No. 2 foreign policy official, Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh, met with the U.S. secretary of state and other officials.

The meeting was "part of our mutual effort to broaden the traditional strong ties which exist between Pakistan and the United States," the State Department said.

During the half-hour meeting, Warren Christopher voiced concern about Pakistan's acquisition of Chinese M-11 missile technology, department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said.

Earlier this month, the United States ended a 14-month technology embargo against China after Beijing promised not to provide Pakistan or other countries parts for missiles able to deliver a 500-tonne payload 300 kilometres

(180 miles). China has never acknowledged providing such assistance to Pakistan.

U.S. sanctions imposed against Pakistan in 1993 over the same issue have remained in place, but Pakistan has never admitted it had acquired a potential for landing missiles in cities of neighbouring India, its rival in three wars.

In a letter Oct. 7, 19 members of Congress urged President Bill Clinton to reconsider listing Pakistan as a state supporter of terrorism. They cited alleged Pakistani support of Muslim guerrillas seeking separation of disputed Kashmir from India.

They also said Pakistan was implicated in the 1993 Bombay Stock Exchange bombing that killed 317 people. Pakistan has denied involvement.

Mr. Christopher's decision last January not to list Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism "was reached after painstaking review of the facts," according to the State Department statement released Thursday night.

A key issue clouding U.S.-Pakistani relations is the cutoff of American aid required by law after the U.S. was not able to certify that Pakistan neither possesses nor is developing atomic weapons.

Ms. Shelly stressed examples of cooperation between the two countries, noting that Washington and Islamabad recently "worked very closely together at the Cairo Population Conference, also on some major peacekeeping operations."

Weary Texans fight fire after floods

HOUSTON (AP) — Two pipelines beneath a rolling river burst, sending 100-foot (30-metre) flames of burning gasoline snaking more than a mile (1.5 kilometres) down the San Jacinto River, at least 69 people were injured.

"It looked like hell opened up on the water and the whole river was gasoline," said Mike Norman, who was on the bank trying to retrieve his sailboat when the explosion occurred.

Some 11,500 people were forced from their homes by heavy rain that began Sunday. Skies were clearing, the murky water had begun to recede in most areas, and some people were returning to their damaged homes, when the pipeline broke east of Houston, sending smoke and flame hundreds of feet (metres) into the air. The flooding has claimed at least 15 lives.

The burning mixture wound 1½ miles (2.5 kilometres) downstream, setting fire to homes and boats along the banks. Schools and businesses in the path of the smoke were evacuated.

"There were three loud booms and then an immediate black cloud," witness Doug Trowbridge said. "It just began to spread like wildfire."

The first explosion, around 10:30 a.m., occurred near "the spaghetti bowl," the mouth of the nation's interstate pipeline network. A second pipeline ruptured around 2 p.m.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena surveyed the scene by helicopter and said the explosion was likely caused by the rain-swollen river.

NEW DELHI (R) — One month after plague erupted in India, terror of the disease has ebbed as the number of victims dwindles. But the sickness has not been eradicated and will take time to be brought fully under control.

Citizens who fled Surat city where pneumonic plague broke out in mid-September have largely returned. Most schools which were closed during the crisis have reopened.

Tourist trade, battered by intense global media coverage of the spread of the disease, is showing signs of recovering.

Foreign governments have lifted many of the controls on travel and trade with India which they had erected. But many countries especially in the Gulf remain wary. Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani cancelled a trip to India because of the sickness, a move Indian newspapers called a serious setback to efforts to improve bilateral relations.

Exporters estimate they have lost \$1.3 billion in foreign sales.

What is more, the scourge has not been wiped out and will take time to be brought

Queen Elizabeth visits St. Petersburg memorial

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II walk past the guard of honour and a Soviet-style flag during a ceremony at the Piskaryov Cemetery, a World War II memorial in St. Petersburg. Ending a visit that evoked memories of Russia's ill-fated czar, Queen Elizabeth headed home Thursday after a rare personal sendoff by President Yeltsin. Bands played, fireworks exploded, and Mr. Yeltsin and 1,500 ramrod-straight Russian troops stood by in sub-freezing temperatures as the royal yacht Britannia pulled away from a Neva River dock. The colourful departure ceremony capped a successful but, in all likelihood, trying week for the first British monarch to visit Russia. No one was more hospitable than Mr. Yeltsin, who escorted the queen throughout much of

her stay. Especially in flying to St. Petersburg, he went to unusual lengths for his guest on a visit seen as both highly symbolic and important for British-Russian ties. The queen and her husband spent the last day of their visit touring Russia's old imperial capital before bidding the city farewell and boarding the royal yacht. Mr. Yeltsin and his wife Naina joined them on the Britannia for a final dinner. They visited the former residence and the burial site of Russia's czars; Piskaryov Cemetery, where a million victims of the Nazi siege of the city are buried; and Mariinsky Palace for a luncheon hosted by Mayor Anatoly Sobchak. The queen also visited the Research Prosthetic Institute while her husband went on board a Russian destroyer and visited the Russian Navy Museum (AFP photo)

China to build world's largest Buddha statue

HONG KONG (AFP) — Construction work was begun for the world's largest bronze Buddha statue in China's eastern coastal province of Jiangsu, it was reported here Friday. The standing robed Sakayamuni male figure is to be built on the peak of Maji Mountain in Wuxi will be some 80 metres completed tall including a lotus-shaped 20 metre high when completed in 1996, the Hong Kong branch of China News Service said.

Deneuve named UNESCO's film ambassador

PARIS (AFP) — French film actress Catherine Deneuve was named UNESCO's good-will ambassador for the safeguard of world film heritage Wednesday. UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor appointed Ms. Deneuve president of a \$100,000 fund to be jointly run by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). Mayor invited other cinema personalities such as Japan's Naoko Oshima, Mexico's Arturo Ripstein and Burkina-Faso's Gaston Kabore to back the fund. When the cinema industry celebrates its centenary next year, more than three-quarters of pre-1950s films will have disintegrated if restoration work is not undertaken or if copies are not made, UNESCO said at least 10 per cent of the 2.2 billion metres of films kept in film libraries across the world are in urgent need of restoration.

There is some damage but it is very temporary," he said. "Things will begin picking up perceptibly in December."

Mr. Ghar said tour operators and government officials were planning a blitz of Europe to drum up tourists.

"There will certainly be a scar in the future," said Anil Bhandari, chairman of the India Tourism Development Corp.

"But 950 million people are back to work. That is a very clear message to people that it is safe."

Most factories have started production," Mr. Kansara said. All schools ex-

cept at the primary level had reopened, and cinemas were expected soon to open their doors.

Dr. Dinesh Shah, a resident doctor at Surat Civil Hospital, which treated most of the nation's plague patients, said it had reopened services like surgery which had been closed during the outbreak.

"Naturally few patients will come," he said, "because they will think, 'once upon a time this was the plague hospital.'"

G. S. Dhar, deputy director-general of the Tourism Ministry, said airports had noted a rebound in tourist arrivals.

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Major accepts IRA truce; will start talks

BELFAST (R) — British Prime Minister John Major said Friday he was ready to make a "working assumption" that an IRA ceasefire was intended to be permanent and to start talks with its political wing, Sinn Fein, before the end of 1994.

Mr. Major said that if the IRA continued the truce in its 25-year guerrilla campaign to oust Britain from the Northern Ireland, he would be ready to convene exploratory talks with Sinn Fein about the political future of the province "before the year is out."

In the key speech, which aides said was designed to give the peace process "a big push forward," Mr. Major also announced the end of a ban on Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and his number two Martin McGuinness from entering mainland Britain.

He also announced the opening of all border crossings with the neighbouring Republic of Ireland and held open the possibility of talks with Protestant "loyalist" paramilitaries once they had shown their commitment to peace.

The IRA's ceasefire on Sept. 1 was answered by a truce by Protestant guerrillas on Oct. 14. Mr. Major has said the moves presented the best chance for peace in the province for quarter of a cen-

tury.

Mr. McGuinness said he broadly welcomed Mr. Major's announcement.

"At last a move in the right direction by the British prime minister. I broadly welcome what he has to say but it is quite clear that we must build on all of this... we must also accept there has to be a fairly rapid demilitarisation of the situation now," Mr. McGuinness told ITN Television News.

Promising to back the peace process with a big investment drive tapping funds from the European Union, the United States and the Far East, Mr. Major said he would review the need for troops to patrol streets and wanted to return to civilian policing.

"Walls have been going up when we should have spent the past 25 years breaking them down," he said. "We cannot make up 25 lost years overnight. We shall have to make herculean efforts. That is the purpose of the initiatives I have announced today."

The future of Northern Ireland lies in the hands of its own people. If you want peace, say so now... join the crusade for the future," said Mr. Major who received a standing ovation before he delivered the speech.

But he said peace could not be assured until paramilitar-

ies on both sides handed in their weapons and explosives.

Mr. Major ended with an emotional appeal to the people of the province. "Let me speak directly to each and every person in Northern Ireland. If you want peace, say so now. Loudly. Don't sit back. Join the crusade for the future."

Mr. Major, accompanied by Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew, arrived in Northern Ireland earlier Friday, a day after his cabinet gave him a free hand to "start talks about talks" with Sinn Fein officials whenever he saw fit.

Mr. Major will hold talks with Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds Monday. Mr. Reynolds has been quicker to accept the IRA ceasefire was permanent and Irish officials have showed impatience at Britain's "softly, softly" approach.

Mr. Major's talks with Mr. Reynolds will focus on progress towards completing a document outlining a framework for inter-party negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland.

Mr. Major said Friday the document would be published when ready so the people of Northern Ireland could have their say.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring described Friday as "very significant" Mr. Ma-

ior's decision to accept the seven-week-old IRA ceasefire as permanent.

Mr. Spring, a key player in the Ulster peace process, praised the decision immediately after Mr. Major announced it in Belfast.

Accepting the truce as permanent was a "very significant and very important" step, Mr. Spring said.

Hardline Protestant leader Ian Paisley said Friday he did not believe the IRA ceasefire was permanent and accused Mr. Major of not keeping his word to the people of Northern Ireland.

Rev. Paisley said he did not welcome Mr. Major's decision to open talks with Sinn Fein, now that Mr. Major believed the IRA truce was permanent. "He has not kept his word to the people of Northern Ireland... there has been no renunciation of violence by IRA/Sinn Fein," Rev. Paisley told BBC Television.

Rev. Paisley, leader of the minority Democratic Unionist Party representing the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland, said Mr. Major had broken the conditions he himself had set down for peace talks to start.

"Do you mean to tell me that the people out there are going to say 'we can trust him on more major issues than that?'" Rev. Paisley said.

32 die as Seoul bridge collapses

SEOUL (R) — At least 32 people were killed and 17 injured Friday when a bridge in central Seoul collapsed into the Han River during the morning rush hour, South Korean police said.

Horror-stricken commuters watched as a central span of the four-lane Songsu Bridge plunged into the river, taking with it cars, vans and a full-loaded bus.

Witnesses said there was no warning before a 48-metre (157-foot) central section of the steel-girder bridge sheared cleanly from the main structure and fell into the Han.

"I don't want to think of this nightmare again. How could a bridge which millions of citizens use every day collapse so easily," said 38-year-old schoolteacher Kim Min-Ja.

Ms. Kim, who teaches at an elementary school, was plucked to safety by rescue boats after the car in which she was travelling careered headlong into the void. She said she managed to wrestle her way out of the car and swim to safety.

President Kim Young-Sam demanded a thorough investigation and heavy punishment for those responsible. He called an emergency cabinet meeting after which the government released a statement expressing its deep regret and shock.

A presidential spokesman said Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug had offered to resign over the collapse by Mr. Kim turned the offer down. But the resignation of Seoul city Mayor Lee Won-Jong was accepted, the presidential spokesman said.

The cabinet meeting decided to award four million won (\$5,000) to each of the victims and more compensation may be given later.

The meeting further decided to make urgent checks on bridges all over South Korea.

Among the victims in the bus were nine girls from a city high school who were heading for school at the time.

"I saw a bus plunge headlong into the river after a section of the bridge in front of me collapsed," said com-



Rescue workers carry bodies from the wreckage of a crowded commuter bus Friday, one of several vehicles which plunged off Songsu Bridge when a 50-metre section of the bridge collapsed. The confirmed death toll rose to 32 and was expected to rise further as witnesses said as many as 10 vehicles plunged off the broken section (AFP photo)

muter Hong Byung-Tae, who managed to stop his car short of the yawning gap.

A flotilla of small boats scoured the river but rescues were hampered by rain, swirling tides and chaotic traffic. On the wreckage of the collapsed span, rescue workers lined up bodies to be ferried to city mortuaries.

The battered section rested on the riverbed with the road surface visible above the water level. The badly-mangled city bus, a van and two cars rested on it, with no sign of life from occupants.

One witness said he thought at least 10 more vehicles had plunged into the Han, which is six to 10 metres (20 to 30 feet) deep at that point.

"I saw air bubbles coming up from 10 locations which seem to be from cars underwater," he said.

The Songsu Bridge, opened 15 years ago, is one of 17 across the Han normally packed with traffic.

City officials said repairs had been scheduled on the bridge Thursday evening but had been postponed owing to

bad weather. The central span was not slated for repair, they added.

The Songsu was built by one of South Korea's biggest construction firms, Dong Ah Construction Industrial Co. Dog Ah shares plummeted to their daily lower limit on the Seoul Bourse in morning trade.

A Dong Ah official said the bridge had been designed for vehicles no heavier than 33 tonnes. But the bridge, one of the city's busiest, now allowed loads of more than 43 tonnes.

1 dead in Chechnya fighting

MOSCOW (AFP) — One soldier was killed and two wounded Friday when troops opposed to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev attacked a government position northwest of the capital, Grozny, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The attack took place near the village of Pervomayskoye in response to an assault overnight by government troops on opposition forces and fighting was continuing in the region, the report said quoting Chechen military officials.

The clashes there came two days after Mr. Dudayev developed some 2,000 troops backed by 30 armoured vehicles in an offensive against rebel forces near the village of Urus-Martan.

That battle left more than 160 dead including up to 40 government soldiers, according to Chechen officials, and marked the bloodiest clash between Mr. Dudayev's armed supporters and opponents in the past two years.

A Chechen opposition



Residents of Urus-Martan look at the bodies of unidentified soldiers killed after fierce fighting in the breakaway Republic of Chechnya. More than 160 people were killed after rebels backed by Moscow used helicopters to attack government positions (AFP photo)

leader denied Friday that Mr. Dudayev had gained the upper hand in the conflict, saying Wednesday's battle "did not change the balance of forces" in the tiny republic in the Caucasus Mountains, TASS said.

Umar Avturkhanov, leader of the self-styled "provisional council" which claims to be the legitimate government of Chechnya, also disputed the casualty figures from Wednesday's

fighting announced by official Chechen sources.

He said that more than 100 of Dudayev's troops had been killed and said these included citizens of Russia, Azerbaijan and the Baltic states, the report said.

Opposition forces also destroyed five armoured vehicles of the pro-Dudayev forces, he said, adding that it was not clear how many civilians had also died in Wednesday's clash.

Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force bomber pilot, was elected president of Chechnya in October 1991 when he unilaterally declared the republic independent from Russia in a move recognised by no one.

Moscow has tried various methods to bring Chechnya back under its control, including an aborted troop deployment in late 1991 and an economic blockade, but has so far failed to do so.

Italy is not just pizza and the mafia — Berlusconi

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Friday he was angry that "fewer than 100 mafia bosses" were giving Italy a bad name but he denied such remarks belittled the fight against organised crime.

Mr. Berlusconi ran into a storm of criticism this week after he was quoted as saying similar things about the size of the mafia threat during a visit to Moscow.

Called before parliament's anti-mafia commission to explain his remarks, which the opposition said played down the significance of organised

crime, Mr. Berlusconi said his government would fight the mob with all its forces.

"I take umbrage when our image becomes that of the mafia," he told the commission.

"There are 57 million people in Italy, four million of them entrepreneurs, and from what I'm told, fewer than 100 dangerous mafia bosses."

Mr. Berlusconi said a survey he had read recently showed that Italy's image abroad was dominated by pizza, the mafia and "a soccer team." He was referring

to European champions AC Milan, which he owns.

"I said to myself that we had to stop a dangerous, damaging activity — one we must fight with all our forces — from characterising everything Italians do," he said.

Mr. Berlusconi was summoned before the commission at the request of Antonio Bargone, leader of the opposition Progressives Group in the Chamber of Deputies.

Mr. Bargone said after Mr. Berlusconi's remarks in Moscow last week that the prime minister's statements signal-

led "an alarming loss of energy in the fight against organised crime."

The prime minister, owner of a \$7 billion a year media and business empire, acknowledged he was partly to blame for the negative image by co-funding TV movies on the mafia.

"Fiction is the most dangerous form of film because it gets onto all the world's television channels, especially if it's well done, and can make the mafia's image overshadow the image of our country," he said.

Hutu refugees may invade Rwanda — UNHCR

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Hutu refugees cramped into makeshift huts in six sprawling camps on Zaire's border with Rwanda are becoming increasingly restless and could be readying for an armed invasion of their homeland, U.N. officials warned.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials also fear that food being distributed by international aid agencies to the estimated 820,000 refugees, including innocent civilians and mass murderers, is being stockpiled by Hutu militias in preparation for a cross-border incursion into the country they fled during a brutal civil war earlier this year.

In the past two weeks, the officials said, political activity has increased noticeably in the two largest camps, Kibumba and Katala, both north of here.

Reports of clandestine military training in the camps are also becoming more frequent, as are the number of occasions when youths take to the muddy pathways and streets of Kibumba and Katala in displays of force.

And former Rwandan Prime Minister Jean Kam-

officials and aid workers, is being sighted increasingly frequently in the camps, in contravention of UNHCR rules that forbid political activity.

Driving through Kibumba, 15 kilometres north of here, Thursday, an AFP reporter saw a 100-strong group of youths, stripped to the waist and sullen from a torrential downpour, running rhythmically along a road, some brandishing machetes.

Refugees watching the display identified them simply as "the soldiers."

The ousted Hutu regime's hardline Interahamwe militias formed similar groups when they unleashed their terror after Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana died in a presumed rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

Up to one million people, mostly members of the Tutsi minority, were killed before the militias fled in July to Zaire along with hundreds of thousands of civilians and 30,000 to 40,000 Hutu troops, who collapsed before the victorious Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) army that now governs the country.

UNHCR field officer for Katala camp, Jesper Jensen,

not personally witnessed military training in the camp, there were enough "signals" — including the sighting of firearms and hand grenades at Katala Wednesday — to take seriously grapevine reports that it was occurring.

"It seems efforts are being made, to organise a mood for an attack," he said.

There were also concerns, he added, that powerful political figures from the ousted Hutu regime had taken control of the Social Commissions established to regulate life and, more significantly, organise security in the camps.

At Katala, the former prefect of Rwanda's greater Kigali region, Francois Karera, currently holds the powerful position of Social Commission head.

Mr. Karera was named by human rights group Africa Rights as having gone on radio in the Rwandan capital Kigali after Mr. Habyarimana's death to urge Hutus to kill Tutsis.

He is also reported to have said in July that the genocide in Rwanda was "a necessary act of war."

Mr. Karera has denied both claims.

"On the surface everything

Mr. Jensen said. "But it is as if someone has spilt petrol on the ground. It just takes one idiot to throw a burning cigarette."

Kibumba field officer Guy Avognon acknowledged to AFP that there was more going on within the hundreds of refugee huts covered with plastic sheeting and scattered across the area's lush volcanic plains than camp officials would like.

"Security has become our main worry," he said. "Political movements are taking over. People are attending more and more meetings. They say they are 'cultural gatherings' but of course they are political meetings."

He said former Prime Minister Kambanda had been seen in Kibumba Thursday, "creating a stir" among the population.

"But there is little we can do," Mr. Avognon said. "We can tell him that he is forbidden to be involved in politics in the camp, but that is about all."

Meanwhile, Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu warned in an interview Friday that delays in foreign aid and in setting up the U.N. war crimes tribunal could lead to more violence

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House has job to do

THERE IS little doubt that on top of the agenda of Parliament when it reconvenes today will be the draft peace accord between Jordan and Israel. Many parliamentarians of all persuasions would probably search and find some loopholes or omissions of one kind or another. There will be outcries on the leasing arrangements whereby some Jordanian territory occupied since 1967 would revert to Jordanian sovereignty but remain in Israeli hands for a definite period of time. Others would question the wisdom of leaving many outstanding issues hanging up in the air and subject of future agreements. In actual terms, some of us would tend to be rather academic in discussing the draft agreement instead of dealing with it within the context of realism that surrounded the negotiating process over the past few years. The best course of action for Parliament or any parliamentary committee charged with the task of examining the treaty and reporting on it to the plenary is to keep in focus certain parameters in mind and see if they are reasonably taken care of in the text. Did Jordan for example regain sovereignty rights over all its territory? Did it acquire water rights that were denied it ever since the Arab-Israeli conflict erupted more than four decades ago? Have this country's economic, political and security needs been addressed to the satisfaction of the country's overall national interests? These and similar principles and guidelines should set the standards for passing judgements on the peace treaty. Meanwhile, we must also keep in mind that in any negotiating process there is always room for give and take. This is in essence the art and spirit of negotiations between any parties. There is no way that any party may negotiate and attain all its objectives. The main point here is whether the country has sacrificed any basic sovereignty rights to the other side.

This does not appear to be the case and that is why we stand in support of the peace treaty that the Jordanian leadership has successfully negotiated and the Cabinet approved.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT Jordan has reached a peace treaty with Israel, it is incumbent on the people to make the treaty succeed and make peace work as they had succeeded in maintaining their steadfastness throughout the past years of confrontation, said Al Ra'i daily. To ensure success of the peace, certain principled stands have to be respected and national unity has to be strengthened by all means. The paper said that the peace treaty does not mean turning our back to the Arab and Islamic nations but rather bolstering ties at all levels to ensure support for our drive towards a lasting peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, democracy and pluralism are to be enhanced in social and political life because they constitute pillars for sustainable security and tranquility at the domestic and external fronts alike, added the daily. Jordan said the paper, is in need of support from the members of the Jordanian family and from the Arab and Islamic World around it so that it can deal with the challenges of peace as it did with the challenges inherent in the past confrontation with Israel. It said by signing the peace treaty Jordan and the Jordanian people are proving to the world they are oriented towards peace and ending all forms of hostility in this troubled region of the world.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily bitterly criticised the official Jordanian information services for delay in releasing the official text of the peace treaty with Israel, leaving the local media totally dependent on the Israeli press for the informal text published in Israel. Tareq Masarweh said that it is sad to see this happening at a time when nothing is kept secret from the Israeli media, and the Jordanian media remain reliant on foreign services for their information for the benefit of the local readers. Even Syrian President Hafez Assad had to rely on the text published in the Israeli and the foreign press, which provided incorrect information about Jordan leasing some of its lands to Israeli farmers as provided for in the published text of the treaty. Hence is Mr. Assad's criticism of the deal, said Masarweh. He said that such practice has throughout the past decades caused damage to Jordan's political stand and is continuing to do so, thanks to the unexplained and mysterious position of the Jordanian officials who try to keep things from the Jordanian public.

Jordanian Perspective

Shortsighted vision and ill-founded criticism

THE SPATE of violence that hit the Israelis and Palestinians last week should not be a dissuading factor for Jordan to get ahead in its plans to consolidate the peace treaty that it has reached with Israel.

The expected signing on Wednesday of the treaty in the south, the address of U.S. President Bill Clinton to the Jordanian Parliament and the King's possible presence in the Knesset when Mr. Clinton addresses the Israeli legislature are all major building blocks towards security and stability for the region and a new life for all its people.

Of course we hear voices of fear that Jordan is going too fast in its moves, leaving some people bewildered as to why the haste.

I think seeing haste in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations is ill-founded. After all, the two countries signed an agenda for peace in September 1993 — after the Palestinians signed their own accord reached without coordination with Jordan — then the Kingdom and Israel sat down to negotiate seriously and reached solutions to the various border and water disputes between them, and then announced the peace treaty.

A closer look at the whole series of events since the peace process was launched in Madrid shows that Jordan has left little room for anyone to blame it. If anything, the Kingdom was the aggrieved party.

First, the Palestinians went ahead and negotiated their own peace deal with the Israelis. The deal may or may not be the right one for the Palestinians, but then the decision to accept it was not taken by Jordan but by the same leadership that is acknowledged worldwide as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore Jordan should not be held answerable, directly or indirectly or by any stretch of imagination, for the discontent that is among the Palestinians over the Oslo accord reached between Israel and the Palestinian people.

Second, regardless of the fact that it was not consulted in the Oslo negotiations or the final shape of the autonomy agreement, Jordan respected its commitment to upholding

the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and rallied itself behind the PLO's decision.

Third, despite Jordan's repeated calls and renewed efforts to rekindle the fabric of Arab coordination, Arab coherence in the peace process disappeared. If anything, Jordan's endorsement of the Israel-PLO autonomy deal was the main factor behind the Syrian and Lebanese criticism of the Kingdom's moves for peace with Israel.

Ironically, the Syrians and Lebanese also appeared to have thought that Jordan and the PLO were plotting behind their backs and the Israel-PLO autonomy accord and the Jordan-Israel agenda were the products of those plots. And this partially explains the torrent of attacks levelled against Jordan and the PLO from Damascus and Beirut.

Those who lament about the lack of Arab coordination should not forget that it was not Jordan which abandoned the concept of a coordinated Arab stand in the peace process. For all practical and technical purposes, the PLO represented the Palestinians in the peace talks and exercised its options. Again, the consequences — bad or good — of the option it found as suitable are a matter that should be dealt with by the Palestinians themselves.

Despite its own concerns over the fallout of the Oslo accords, Jordan stood by the PLO, repeatedly calling for coordinated moves so that the negative impact, if any, of the agreement could be dealt with in a coherent manner. No, the PLO was not ready for it. If anything, it went ahead and arrived at different agreements with Israel which may or may not bear good news for Jordan, which, however, continued to call for joint moves.

The controversy over Jerusalem and the PLO's on-the-record request to the United Nations that the Israel-Jordan treaty be amended to bring about a change in the reference to the Holy City are the direct results of non-coordination between Jordan and the PLO leadership. But then, Jordan should not be blamed for it. Had there been strong coordination, then it would have been more than clear to

the PLO that the Kingdom's role in Arab East Jerusalem is strictly religious and that Jordan does not covet Palestinian land, including Jerusalem. So much for the great understanding and brotherly relations that we hear PLO officials talk about whenever they are in Jordan.

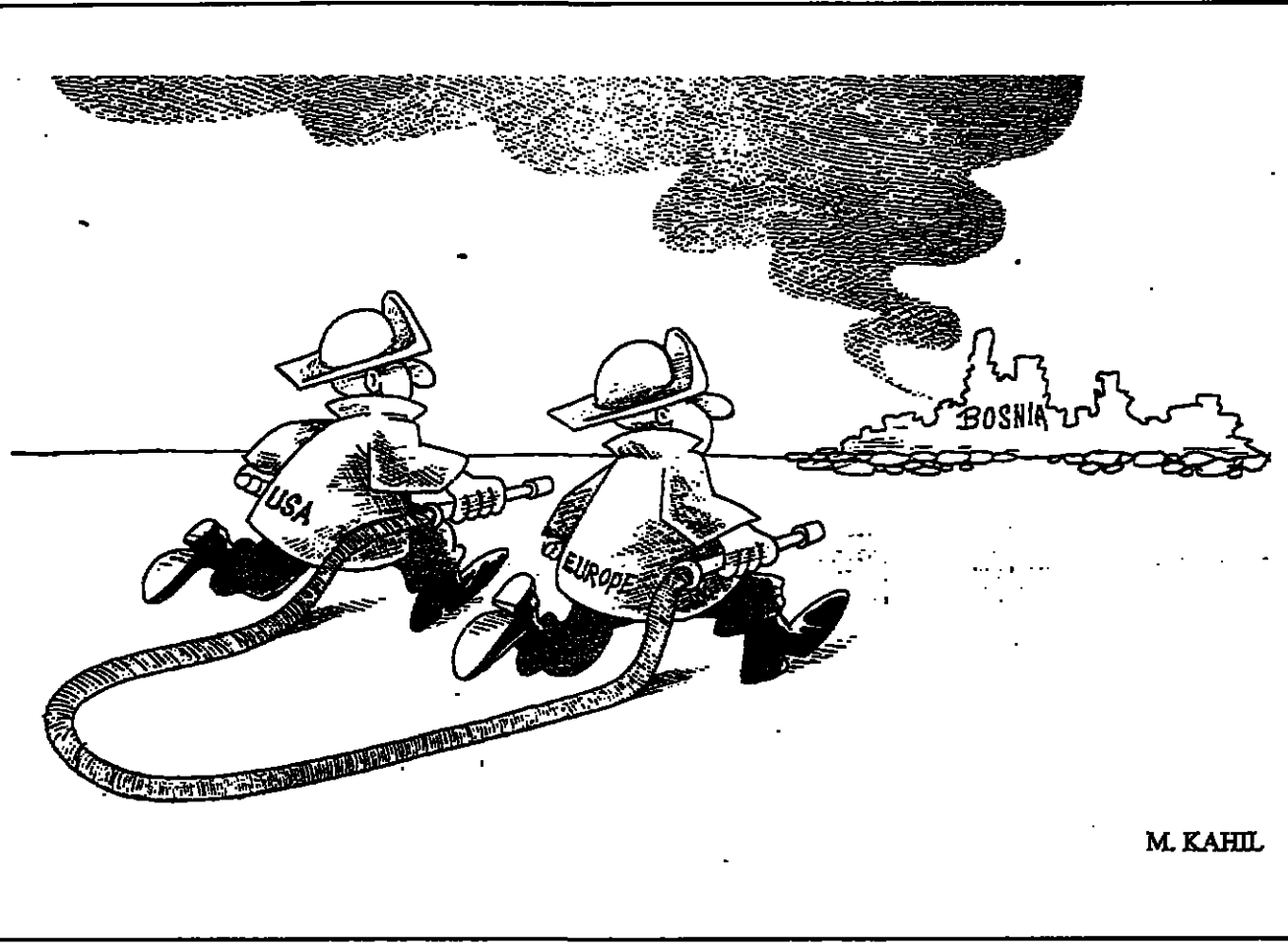
It makes little sense to argue that Jordan should not have supported the autonomy agreement. Had the Kingdom done so, as Syria and Lebanon did, it would have meant the loss of credibility for the PLO, throwing the whole peace process into chaos. It was not something Jordan could not afford.

Now, after it worked out its own peace treaty with Israel, we are hearing all kinds of criticism. The critics appear to overlook one simple factor: "With the PLO acting for the Palestinians and reached its own agreement with Israel, there was little reason for Jordan to hold itself back. And it managed to secure its territorial and water rights from Israel and announced a peace treaty."

The comments of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Cairo last week were very telling. The Syrian leader appeared to have steered clear of an overall rejection of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and chose to criticise the specific parts of the document where the Kingdom and the Jewish state agreed to leasing parts of the land.

Obviously, President Assad is apprehensive that the Israelis would cite the leasing accord with Jordan in their negotiations over Syria's Golan Heights and the Israeli stand would be supported by the U.S., whom Damascus sees as the only power capable for pressuring Israel into accepting compromises.

As such, the Syrian leader should be given grudging admiration for his tactical acceptance of the Jordan-Israel treaty. Indeed, Syria has the right to raise concern over parts of the Jordan-Israel treaty which it might interpret as a possible leeway for Israel to pressure Damascus, and we have little to say about it except that it should rise above the mental technicalities to a level that accepts the requirements of the day in the changing international and regional scene.



Iraq crisis proves stability continues to elude the Gulf

By G. H. Jansen

WHO IS the winner in the latest round of the drawn-out U.S.-Iraq confrontation? This question is valid even if round two is not entirely over, because both sides claimed victory after round one.

But the mere fact that there is round two proves that round one was, from the U.S. point of view, a military success but politically was undeniably a failure. Hence all the talk about "finishing the job" this time, that is knocking out President Saddam Hussein.

The old children's rhyme would seem to be true of both sides: "The king of France he had 10,000 men 'he marched them up the hill then marched them down again'."

Of the two leaders in the current dispute, U.S. President Bill Clinton appears the more foolish because while the king of France marched only 10,000 men up and down the hill and Saddam Hussein moved only two divisions of Republican Guards around in southern Iraq, Mr. Clinton dispatched hundreds of planes, tens of thousands of soldiers and many naval vessels, including two aircraft carriers to the other side of the world from where they will return without firing, or even hearing, a shot fired in anger. If he is not to appear a foolish king of France, Mr. Clinton will have to make use of his forces against Iraq on one pretext or another.

The score chart of a referee of round two would mark the plus and minus points of Iraq and the U.S. (plus Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) as follows: It has been displayed once again that at the first sign of real trouble, Saudi Arabia and

Kuwait feel the need to go running to Uncle Sam for protection. The billions of dollars the Gulf countries have spent on arms have not bought them strength and security and, furthermore, will actually weaken their regimes politically because of the inability of these countries to rely on their defensive abilities will widen the gap between the regimes and their opposition critics who resent dependence on the West.

This is not necessarily a failure of U.S. policy in the Gulf because it was never an objective of U.S., or earlier of U.K., policy to make the Gulf states strong and self-reliant, which from the point of view of the U.S. and the U.K. would have been self-defeating.

But the balance of advantage and of bargaining power between the Gulf buyers and the U.S. seller has shifted most significantly. The cost of waging a war halfway round the world is so enormous that after "Desert Storm" the U.S. was obliged to ask the Gulf countries to pay most of the bill — \$50 billion for Saudi Arabia, which it still has not finished paying. In the past week, the main subject of discussion between U.S. officials, like Defence Secretary William Perry, and the Gulf officials has been the matter of payment.

But the Saudis and Kuwaitis are also making the discovery that military cooperation with the U.S. could end in bankruptcy even for these richest of the oil rich states.

The time will soon come, perhaps has already come, when the iron rule that "he who pays the piper calls the tune" will prevail and the Arab paymasters insist on the U.S. destroying the Ira-

qi regime, which is what they have paid their American allies to do.

In short, it is becoming clear that the U.S. needs the Gulf just as much as the Gulf needs the U.S. because it is Arab arms contracts that keep the U.S. arms industry afloat.

Among several plus points for Iraq in the second round is the clear fact that this time there was no "Arab cover" for the coalition. In fact, there was no coalition at all as there was last time. There was even talk from Turkey that its southern airfield may not be made available to the U.S., which is a serious business because Turkey is a NATO ally.

Deep fissures have appeared in the West European-U.S. alliance over Iraq because France openly and the U.K. covertly were not prepared, or very reluctant, to go along with a U.S. proposal for a punitive action against Iraq. This first open revolt by Europe against U.S. leadership sets a new geo-political pattern in world affairs.

If France and the U.S. are snapping at each other and maligning each other's motives, Russia and the U.S. are openly at odds because of round two. Indeed so opposed is the U.S. to Russian "interference" that it was not prepared to let the Security Council wait for a mere 18 hours to give the Russian Foreign Minister a chance to address the Council before it voted on a resolution.

For Iraq, indeed for any self-respecting Third World country, this preliminary return of Russia to its great power role as a player on the world stage, and to the days of the cold war, can only be welcome.

Thanks to the terms of a Russian declaration on the

crisis, a time limit has at last been mentioned for the lifting of sanctions — six months. Thanks to this issue of U.N. sanctions is once more on the world's agenda. That the sanctions are a cause of conflict is now obvious.

The appearance of the "bedouin" expelled former residents of Kuwait, who are still encamped on the border of the emirates, serves to remind the world of how heartless and selfish Kuwait's policy can be.

The major plus point for the U.S. in the second round is that it achieved its major goal: The massive American build-up persuaded or frightened President Saddam Hussein into cancelling out his recent build-up near Kuwait in a humiliating withdrawal of two Republican Guard divisions.

Also, Iraq declared itself ready to recognise Kuwait's sovereignty, which is a major concession because the move would be very unpopular in Iraq.

Further, the U.S. has shown that it is a reliable friend that is able to provide swift protection to its allies even on the other side of the world.

The value of prepositioning war material in the area has been proven. Also, the U.S. has achieved a long-held military objective: A permanent military presence in the Gulf area.

This review of the referee's point card shows that in the second round Iraq is, so far, ahead on points. Therefore the answer to the initial question is, "yes," for Iraq. To retain that lead all that President Saddam Hussein has to do now is to keep his head down, and not make any mistakes.

THE WEEK IN PRINT Violence should not slow the peace process

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE ATTACK on the bus in Tel Aviv reminds the world of the attack on the Muslim worshippers inside the Al Ibrahim Mosque last February, when scores of innocent civilians were killed, said Al Ra'i daily.

Both incidents were bloody and need not have happened had the occupation not been there, it said. Israeli government's resort to threats against the Arabs plus the collective punishment against the population can only increase the hatred between the two sides and could lead to counter acts of vengeance from extremists in Israel and on the Palestinian side, warned the daily. The right to resist occupation is legitimate though Jordan condemn all acts of terrorism against the civilians, said the paper.

Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that by closing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel is not taking revenge for the death of the 22 Israelis in the Tel Aviv bus blast against a certain group or organisation but rather against a whole people.

The cycle of violence, said the writer, will continue as long as Israel occupies Arab lands. Ending occupation, she said, is the right way of ending the killing of innocent people on both sides. The Israelis, said the writer, should face the facts and should comply with the requirements of genuine peace.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the continued occupation is bound to breed more violence and lead to further bloodshed. The continued detention of thousands of Palestinians, obstruction of Palestinian moves to enhance self-rule and hold free elections, continued acts of repression against the Palestinian people and other arbitrary actions, said the writer, can only lead to further violence and further sufferings. He said Israel is duty bound to create the right climate for peace in theory and practice.

Samih Maayata, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Hamas, which has been carrying out attacks on Israeli targets, realises that it alone is shouldering the task of resisting occupation. Hamas represents the burning flame of hope and the genuine resistance at a time when Arab countries are accepting capitulation to Zionists and succumbing to hegemony, said the writer. Having accepted to play this role, said the writer, Hamas is bound to pursue its resistance activities and offer further sacrifices for the sake of liberation despite the current efforts on the part of the Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to attain a

settlement through peaceful methods.

Editorial in Al Dustour, Al Ra'i and Sawt Al Shaab daibes all lauded the Jordanian and describing the peace treaty as just and fair and guaranteeing the restoration of all Jordanian rights. The peace treaty for the first time reflects Israel's decision to define its borders with the Kingdom, a step which could have never been taken in a climate of hostilities and conflict, said the papers. They said that the overwhelming support from foreign nations should give Jordan further impetus to pursue its efforts to reach a final peace ensuring all parties rights.

Mohammad Subeithi, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the peace treaty should be at the centre of seminars, panel discussions and other meetings at all levels and members of the public ought to have the right to air their views in support of or opposition to the peace treaty. The writer said that only through dialogue and through discussions of advantages and disadvantages of the deal can citizens by continued of its viability.

Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the Americans were instrumental in speeding up the initialing of the peace treaty so as to improve the Clinton administration's image at home where congressional elections are soon to be held. The writer said the Israeli government, which has been facing growing dissatisfaction from the Israeli society over its policies and the death of the kidnapped Israeli soldier, wanted to present the Israelis with a success that would help them forget their other worries.

Hamadeh Farazaneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, welcomed visits to Jordan by delegations representing the Israeli Arabs and said that the visits reflect the interrelated national interests and their affiliation to the Arab Nation. The writer said that the visits and the meetings with Jordanian officials reflect the deep desire of more than 800,000 Palestinians living in Israel, to remain bound to their kinsmen, culturally and socially.

Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, criticised the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and Egypt for attacking the Iraqi troop movement near the Kuwaiti border. The Islamists have attacked the Iraqi leadership for its moves as causing danger to the Gulf, said the writer, who asked whether the Islamists consider the presence of U.S. forces in Kuwait as a must to ensure safety for the emirate.

Israel to quit Jordan's land in 3 months

(Continued from page 1)

anybody for lack of coordination, and recalled Jordan's keen interest and resolve to extend its hands for cooperation and coordination with those who wish to do so.

Prince Hassan said the latest Jordanian move was not directed against anybody nor did it target any Arab party.

"The Jordanian move is based on firm principles, involving Jordanian territory without prejudice to the territories occupied in 1967, since we are bound by virtue of the international laws and conscience to always be reminded of the territories occupied in 1967. This legal position constitutes a legal cornerstone which should not be ignored," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince said the major elements, such as water and territory and a package of major and sub-titles, in addition to security, formed the basis for the Jordanian move to develop the peace treaty. He said Jordan has been able through the negotiations process to ensure its share of water from the Yarmouk River. However, the Jordanian negotiator had to stress the fact that Jordan is part of the Arab Nation, and that it is bound by the Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Conference agreements and that it does in no

way accept to detach itself or be detached from the economic and social body.

He added that Jordan reserves the full right to defend itself against any external aggression or internal sabotage.

"Three years after the negotiations started, we felt a serious desire by the second party to the negotiations to make progress. We announced publicly that we should not miss the opportunity to restore our rights."

"We contacted, coordinated and clarified our position with the concerned Arab capitals and expected their feedback, particularly our Palestinian brothers, from whom we are still expecting the minimum commitment to the agreements signed by them so that we can give life to the Arab and Jordanian lung east of the River Jordan."

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, Prince Hassan said, is different from the Oslo and Camp David agreements in that it was not brokered by any party, nor was it imposed by anybody.

Prince Hassan said he found out during his meeting with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali in New York that there was an international move to set up a development fund for Gaza

Strip similar to the one established to develop Sarajevo. The transfer of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to Gaza reflects the unique status of Gaza, the Crown Prince said. He stressed the need for addressing the humanitarian dimensions of the problem of the refugees and displaced persons who were forced to leave their country in 1948, 1967 and 1991.

Prince Hassan called for setting up a regional bank for reconstruction in this region, saying that the World Bank deals with a specific group of limited-income earners, covered by the economic reform programme.

"What we are after is in fact private and public investment at both the regional and international levels at one time, and there are no such institutions dealing with this dimension," Prince Hassan said.

On the issue of the Palestinian refugees, Prince Hassan said it will be discussed in 1996. In our apparent reference to the trade agreements envisaged by the treaty, Prince Hassan said Jordan is not the first country to do so. The Gulf Arab countries, Tunisia and Morocco have lifted the boycott on Israel before Jordan. The volume of trade between the Gulf Arab countries and Israel is \$500 million, he said.

Parliament opens new session today

(Continued from page 1)

wards withdrawing. Mr. Mansour said the 16-member IAF bloc will exercise all its constitutional rights to block the peace treaty, including proposing a vote of no confidence in the government.

As a political party, the IAF will call for tolerating opposing points of view, said Dr. Farhan. "We have shown that we have done that, we call on others to do the same," he said.

As Dr. Farhan said the fight against peace with Israel will focus on revitalising the Arab-Islamic renaissance project, Dr. Sa'id emphasised the IAF will also work to resist any changes in legislation that will make it illegal for Jordanians to speak about Arab rights in Palestine and the "enmity with the Jewish enemy."

But while leaving all their options open as to how they will direct their "battle" against peace with Israel, all the Islamist leaders agreed that they will not join the government.

"The government will be the instrument that will implement the peace treaty with Israel. We will resist it," said Dr. Sa'id.

The Islamists also appeared reconciled to their inability to control the speakership of the House as a means of fighting the peace treaty, withdrawing the candidacy of Dr. Akaleh and indicating they will put their weight behind independent Islamist Deputy Abdul Razzaq Tubehat.

The IAF will support Dr. Tubehat even though he supports the peace process because he is closer to a "number of objectives" they said they have.

Influential Deputy Abdul Kareem Kabarti said there "might not be a chance for the Islamists to influence the

shape of the current era but they will have a chance in the future in protecting the Jordanian model and articulating the nature of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relations."

All indications are at this point that the Islamists will not be able to carry the candidacy of the House with many parliamentary sources saying that independent deputy Sa'id Hayel Srour remains the favourite to win the race.

Mr. Srour, the candidate of the 12-member National Democratic Coalition, is counting on the support of the 10-member National Bloc and the National Action Front which have over 20 members, parliamentary sources said. They said Mr. Srour, a former minister from the Northern Bedouin district, can also count on the backing of a number of independent deputies.

Dr. Tubeishat is expecting the support of the IAF, and a group of 13 independent deputies and other lawmakers who supported the candidacy of incumbent Taber Al Masri before he announced his withdrawal from the race.

At least two sources said Mr. Srour already has more than the 41 votes he needs to win in the first round of balloting. Responding to the possibility of having U.S. President Bill Clinton address Parliament, the Islamic leaders all said Mr. Clinton "is not welcome in Jordan," but stressed that they have not yet reached a decision on how to express their position.

President "Clinton is the enemy of the Arab and Muslim nation," said Mr. Mansour. "I will not be honoured to sit with him in the same room."

Dr. Sa'id also confirmed

that the IAF has not yet decided whether to boycott the session in which Mr. Clinton could address Parliament, but said he and other members of the IAF will not attend even if the front decides not to boycott.

Dr. Sa'id also confirmed that the IAF has not yet decided whether to boycott the session in which Mr. Clinton could address Parliament, but said he and other members of the IAF will not attend even if the front decides not to boycott.

Dr. Sa'id said he considered the visit of Mr. Clinton to Jordan "a provocation against the people." Dr. Farhan, who is considered to be among the most moderate Islamists, reiterated his colleagues' position that Mr. Clinton "is not welcome in Jordan."

"We reserve the right to choose our method of expressing our rejection of Mr. Clinton's entry to the House. We will either boycott the session or make Mr. Clinton know how we feel about him," said Mr. Mansour.

In addition to the peace process, the second session of the House will address a number of draft legislations. In the first session, the House approved 30 draft laws which included the sales tax law, the municipalities law and the tenancy law.

U.S., U.K. warn Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

"Not only the neighbouring countries, but the whole world community should be vigilant and alert to check the aggressive spirit (of Saddam) until the Iraqi people says its word," King Fahd said.

"Every right-minded person knows that the course of action taken by the Iraqi regime is a menace... even to the Iraqi people themselves," the 71-year-old monarch said.

King Fahd rarely grants interviews, and his statement to the Arabic daily suggesting President Saddam's ouster was a contrast to the quiet diplomacy the kingdom usually employs in defining its foreign policy.

Russia is doing everything it can to help lift the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, the new Russian ambassador to Iraq said Friday.

Nicolai Kartozov told a television station run by President Saddam's son Uday that "the Russian people shares the suffering of the Iraqi people."

"Russia will do everything in its power, within the limits of its possibilities and in the U.N. Security Council, to lift the embargo," the ambassador told Uday TV.

Mr. Kartozov, who last week became the first Russian ambassador to be posted to Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf conflict, said his instructions were to "make every possible effort to develop relations between Iraq and Russia."

By James Goldsmith
Reuter

BONN — Helmut Kohl, who was on Sunday headed for his fourth successive term as German chancellor, is one of the world's great political survivors.

As chancellor since 1982, Mr. Kohl has outlived the era of former contemporaries Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. If he goes on until 1998 is promised, he would become Germany's longest-serving chancellor this century.

Even the leftist weekly Der Spiegel accorded him a place in history alongside the founder of modern Germany, calling him "Bismarck in a cardigan."

As if to underscore his staying power despite adversity, computer projections showed Mr. Kohl winning Sunday's general election with only a tiny majority for his coalition.

Basking in his projected victory, Mr. Kohl on Sunday mocked journalists and commentators who earlier this year had predicted the chancellor would lose.

"They said Helmut Kohl and the CDU (his Christian Democratic Party) were on their way out, but now we're back and it's time to get down to work," he told hundreds of cheering party faithful in Bonn.

After overseeing German unification in 1990 and guiding the Maastricht Treaty on European Union (EU) into being in 1993, he says he has nothing left to prove but much to achieve.

"My political ambition has been satisfied," he said last year. Last week he announced his twin aims of giving European Unity another push and helping Germany's two halves grow together would keep him in office until 1998, but no longer.

Early this year, as Mr. Kohl's CDU trailed the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) in surveys and Germany was stuck in recession, that would have seemed wishful thinking.

Discontent had overtaken his crowning achievement of shepherding East and West Germany to unity on Oct. 3, 1990 — without violence and with the blessing of both the communist

Soviet Union and Germany's occasionally dubious Western allies.

Two months after becoming the first chancellor of reunited Germany, Mr. Kohl was reelected with only 43.8 per cent, the worst showing for the CDU and its Bavarian CSU allies since 1949.

Germany plunged into its deepest recession since World War II and its finances creaked under the strain of rebuilding formerly communist East Germany's decrepit economy, prompting steep tax rises and exhortations to work harder and moan less.

Well over a million people lost their jobs in the east alone as industrial production there fell by 70 per cent.

Unification brought another undesired consequence — the reemergence of an extreme right-wing and neo-Nazi fringe who began a wave of attacks against asylum-seekers and immigrants.

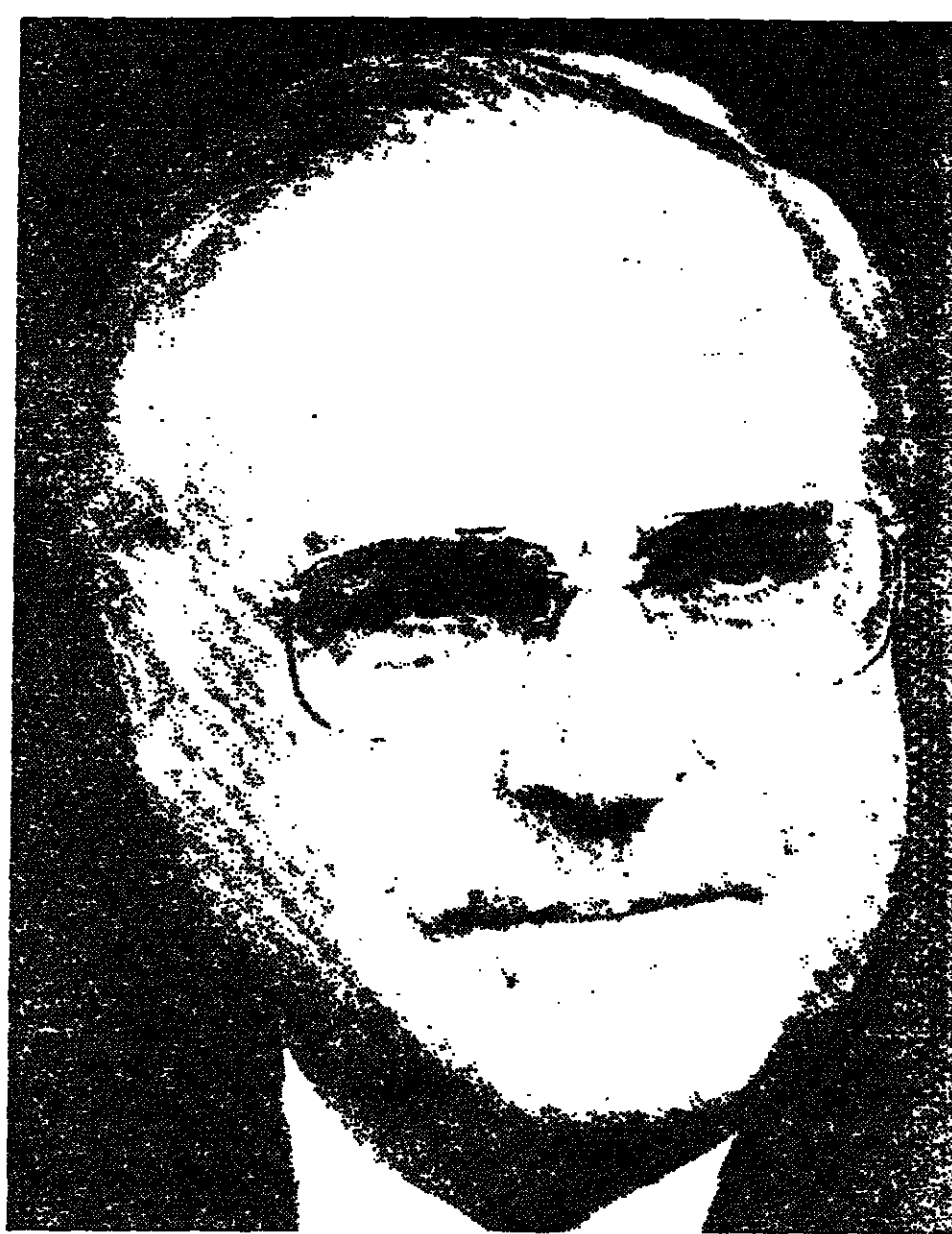
Mr. Kohl's touch seemed to desert him when he incensed critics by not attending the funeral of five Turkish women and girls killed in a racist fire-bombing in the town of Solingen in May 1993.

Worse followed when he hand-picked the politically naive East German lawyer Steffen Heitmann as his party's presidential candidate, only to withdraw him later after he aroused a storm of protest with his arch-conservative views.

Then, just as Mr. Kohl was starting to look like yesterday's man, he bounced back. With elections in the air, timely economic recovery filling his sails, and the SPD stumbling, he began to exude an optimism that even his own party lacked.

In August, Mr. Kohl walked on to the world stage where he has pushed to give united Germany a bigger role, seeing off the last of the Russian troops who had been stationed in East Germany and closing one more chapter of unification.

Ceremonies with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton reminded Germans of the



Helmut Kohl

warm personal relationship he has established with both men.

Significantly, Mr. Kohl seemed by then to have won back many Eastern German voters who had long been resentful that soaring unemployment had not given way to the "flourishing landscapes" he promised them at unification.

Mr. Kohl had again timed his move to perfection, just as in 1990 when, with his fortunes languishing, he saw history suddenly pick up speed and determined to steer it his way.

The Chancellor, who at 1.93 metres (six feet four inches) and 115 kg has the physique to match his clout, had been written off more than once in his earlier career.

He first ran for chancellor in 1976, narrowly losing to Mr. Schmidt. Then he had to stand aside as the right's most stirring orator, Franz Josef Strauss, made a bid for the top and failed.

Mr. Kohl finally made it in 1982 when the small Free Democratic Party (FDP) deserted Mr. Schmidt and formed a government with him.

Mr. Kohl, the Roman Catholic son of a minor civil servant, was born on April 3, 1930 in the Rhine River Port of Ludwigshafen. The end of World War II found him in an army cadet school.

He won a doctorate in history at Heidelberg University and was the youngest member of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Assembly when he entered it in 1959. A decade later, he was the state premier and on his way to the top.

He has a wife, Hannelore, and two grown-up sons.

Witchcraft, faith healers abound on remote central island

By Robert H. Reied
The Associated Press

SIQUEJOR, Philippines — It could be any doctor's in any poor village: patients waiting silently, hoping for a cure. But this healer uses herbs, chants and magic words.

Eliseo Bulanan is one of about 75 faith healers on Siquijor, an island of 50,000 people 640 kilometres southeast of Manila.

"It's a gift of God," Mr. Bulanan, 28, said of his supposed power. "I cannot explain it. I am simply a vehicle of the holy spirit."

For centuries, Siquijor has been identified with "kulam," or black magic, with mysticism and faith healing. Spanish colonisers named the island Isla del Fuego (Island of Fire) because of mysterious lights they saw in the jungle-covered mountains.

Siquijor's reputation as a haven of witchcraft has spread so far that during the Islamic uprising of the 1970s in the Philippines, both soldiers and Muslim guerrillas came to buy amulets to protect them from bullets.

The healers of Siquijor use many techniques. Some treat exclusively with herbs, others with mystical chants. The "holo-bolo" chants phrases from the Latin mass and blows through a straw into a water glass containing a magic stone to draw out the sickness.

Educated Siquijorans find the den-of-witches image embarrassing. "Few people here believe in that stuff anymore," said Nicolaas Van Roselaar, a dutchman who married a Filipina and runs a small inn. "It's only people outside the island that believe."

As Benjamin Aquino, the provincial governor, explained it: "For the literate and those with higher

education, they don't believe in magic. But the illiterate do. There are people from other provinces who come here for magic."

Mr. Aquino, ever in search of revenue, envisions building an occult-tourism trade on the island's unique reputation. When not pursuing their special interest, he notes, the visitors could enjoy the white-sand beaches and snorkel through the rich coral.

Felix Suamen, who works at the provincial hospital, said faith healers became popular before there were doctors on the island, and "the beliefs are passed on from parents to their children."

Most of the magic used by the healers is "white magic." But Mr. Aquino said black magic was common many years ago — casting spells on a client's enemy, for example, to ruin his crops, cause illness or make his business fail.

The practice of black magic ceased after several bombings in the late 1950s and early 1960s that apparently were reprisals for evil spells, the governor said.

One faith healer said confidentially, however, that he knew of half a dozen "magicians" who would cast an evil spell for 3,000 pesos, the equivalent of about \$115.

Like Caribbean voodoo, Siquijor rituals fuse elements of conventional Roman Catholicism and beliefs that prevailed before Spanish missionaries brought Christianity in the 16th century.

Amulets and magic potions of herbs, bark and roots are prepared during Easter week. Magicians believe their powers are greatest on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, because Christ has not yet risen from the dead.

Patriotic Romanians fight shy of Dracula legend

By Philippa Fletcher
Reuter

BRAN, Romania — Anyone passing through the Transylvanian village of Bran on the night of the full moon in Sept. 1987 would have been forgiven for thinking Dracula had returned to his legendary lair.

Locals say an ominous howling came from the castle on the hill. On the battlements the moonlight outlined 11 figures with pale faces, red eyes and sharp teeth.

Castle guide Monika Pusztai, who was there that night, said that despite appearances, the 11 were not victims of the famous vampire but merely a group of Dracula fans from Britain.

As far as she is concerned, the strangest thing about the event was not the behaviour of the participants, who paid \$165,000 to enact their fantasies, but the fact that it was not repeated for other Dracula enthusiasts.

"There were other tours for foreigners but they were very low-key," said Ms. Pusztai.

Romania's former communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who allowed tourism and cultural officials to bran to try to agree on the right way to promote the castle.

Apart from calls to avoid a "Disney" approach, most of the speakers at the conference insisted that the historical Dracula be portrayed as a hero, unlike his fictional namesake.

It is a tall order. The mediaeval prince got his name because of his habit of impaling his enemies on spikes. He once nailed the turbans of visiting Turks to their heads because they had failed to doff them in his honour.

"If you think the horror films are frightening, you should hear what really happened," said Constantin Rezacievici, a historian in

town of Brasov, tourists can admire a display of locally produced car radiators, but there is no sign of the famous vampire.

Many visitors to Bran, expecting to see the grim fortress described in the novel, are disappointed by the whitewashed Bran Castle where guides avoid mentioning Dracula.

"There wasn't even a torture chamber," complained Sophie Shields-Brown, leading a group of tourists from Britain.

Ms. Pusztai and her husband, Cornel Talos, who manages the castle, feel there is plenty of scope to develop the potential presented by both the real and fictional Draculas.

But they are aware many Romanians still feel uneasy about promoting a gruesome myth which came from abroad and could give their country and its history a bad name.

Under Mr. Ceausescu's rule the legend was condemned as "political pornography" and since then the mixture of fact and fiction in Hollywood creations such as Francis Ford Coppola's "Dracula" has encouraged sceptics.

To try to overcome local sensitivities, Talos brought tourism and cultural officials to bran to try to agree on the right way to promote the castle.

Mr. Stoker was inspired by the 15th century Romanian prince Vlad, who inherited the name Dracula from his father. As Mr. Ceausescu's tyranny spread, his name began to be linked with that of the vampire.

Even now, five years after Mr. Ceausescu was executed in Romania's bloody revolution, there is no attempt to promote Dracula in the area, which badly needs an economic boost.

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Anani explains treaty

(Continued from page 12)

Israel under similar conditions allowing for similar treatment to Israeli goods in Jordan.

Referring to the question of refugees and displaced people, Dr. Anani said that the common agenda stipulates that Jordan and Israel should enter negotiations over these questions and to be guided by the international law. However, he added, Jordan cannot on its own discuss this question without coordination with the Palestine National Authority. Jordan, the minister said, refrained from discussing this question in the absence of the Palestinians lest it would be said that a decision was taken not in the interest of the Palestinians.

He said that since part of the Palestinians hold Egyptian travel documents the question of displaced people should be discussed by the four parties: Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians. Concerning the holy shrines in Palestine, the minister said that the treaty provides for freedom of access to them.

claim sovereignty over Jerusalem has been given a special role for caring for the Islamic sites in the Holy City and would only waver this right by handing this authority to the Palestinian authority capable of handling religious affairs there.

Jordan, he added, has been providing protection for and funding restoration work at holy sites but does not want to secure political gains there and therefore Jordan will continue to exercise the right of caring for these holy sites until the time comes for the Palestine National Authority to be able to exercise the right to do so, he said.

Asked whether the peace treaty with Israel is to be considered as a separate solution from the other Arab parties, Dr. Anani said that this treaty should help all parties to reach a comprehensive settlement.

Jordan does not accept any tutelage because, the minister said, the Kingdom realises too well its own interests and had to take the move to achieve political gains but does not deny the others equal rights.

AFM apathetic to initialling Jordan-Israel peace treaty

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian investors did not take much notice of last week's initialling of a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty if only because they had already absorbed economic expectations of peace into their strategy at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), brokers said Friday.

The brokers said this explained the failure of the market to rise to the level of normal expectations in terms of prices and turnover during last week despite the initialling of the peace treaty.

If anything, both stock prices and turnover declined during the week, the weekly report of the market showed.

The report said that the general price index based on the stocks of 60 major companies closed at 144.4 points on Wednesday, the last day of trading for the week, down 0.8 points or 0.6 per cent from the week's opening of 145.2 point.

The weekly turnover was

5.2 million dinars, down 5.5 per cent from the previous week's 5.3 million, the report said.

The industrial sector accounted for 2.68 million or 51.4 per cent of the volume, followed by the services sector with 1.41 million or 27.1 per cent, commercial banks with 1.08 million or 20.7 per cent and insurance stock with 40,000 dinars, or 0.8 per cent.

The separate sector indices also showed declines. The industrial index closed at 128.39 points, down 1.5 points or 1.2 per cent, the services stock index at 137.20 points, down 1.9 points, or 1.34 per cent, the insurance stock index at 139.95 points, down one point, or seven per cent, and the index for commercial banks and financial institutions at 158.16 points or 0.14 per cent.

The report said 2.2 million shares changed hands during the week under 3,888 contracts.

Shares of 74 companies were trading during the week. When trading closed, 18 of them showed gains, 41

showed declines and 15 remained unchanged.

The performance was not surprising, brokers said. "For more than a year now, investors had taken account of the expectations of Jordanian-Israeli peace and sought to reflect them on the share prices," said a broker. "This was not limited to major institutions, but also almost every individual with a portfolio at the AFM."

As such, the broker explained, "everybody was aware that the signing of the treaty was not adding any new elements as far as the AFM was concerned."

Furthermore, investors are also careful not to boost prices when it is unclear whether the government will go ahead with a proposal to remove capital gains from exemption and from taxation.

Government assurances that "the proposal not capital gains from taxes exempt needs to be studied closer have not done much to soothe investors' fears," said another broker.

Mixed U.S. signals fuel dollar selling

LONDON (R) — Conflicting U.S. signals on currency policy gave more ammunition to dollar sellers Friday and dealers said the currency may keep plunging new depths after hitting a new post-war low of 96.55 yen in Tokyo.

Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers denied the United States had shifted its dollar policy and said Washington was prepared to intervene when appropriate.

But his comments failed to wipe out the damage Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen had done to the dollar late Thursday when he said the

U.S. had no plans to intervene.

Short-covering of earlier positions and widespread rumours of central bank intervention helped pull the dollar off its lows late in the European session.

It was at 1.4980 marks and 97.30 yen at 1620 yen GMT compared with 1.5015 and 97.30 late Thursday in Europe. It earlier fell to a post-World War II low of around 96.55 in the Far East and touched a new two-year trough of 1.4883 marks.

"Everyone wants to test

lower but no one wants to take the initiative and hopes someone else will go first," said Jiro Nagato, a senior dealer at Sumitomo Bank in London.

A large option-related order to sell dollars near 96.40 yen could trigger another round of sales when the market has thinned to leave only New York operators in play, dealers said.

"We recognise that in general the dollar represents market fundamentals, Mr. Summers told CNN's Business Day television program.

"But there are times when intervention is appropriate. ... We would be prepared ... to intervene."

Mr. Summers said the United States would prefer to see a stronger dollar, in part because it helps hold down inflation.

"If we start gapping (sharp falls) and volumes pick up, we could see (central bank) intervention," said Paul Lambert, currency economist at UBS in London.

He added that market activity had not been disorderly this week as trading has been thin, and so far the

Bank of Japan (BOJ) has been the lone central bank trying to save the dollar.

"It makes it very difficult to figure out where they really want the dollar," said Standard Chartered Bank's Juergen Lindemann, head of foreign exchange at the British bank in London.

Mr. Lindemann said that while U.S. authorities may publicly say they would like to see the dollar higher, they quietly allow it to drop. "It almost appears to me that is the case. As long as the slide is gradual they don't seem to mind."

EU proposes doubling aid to Mediterranean states

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission has proposed doubling aid to non-EU Mediterranean countries to help modernise their economies and prepare for the creation of a free-trade area, Development Commissioner Manuel Marin said.

Mr. Marin said the commission had proposed an aid package of 5.5 billion ECUs (\$7.9 billion) for the five-year period 1995-1999, to help rebalance relations with the Mediterranean after estab-

lishing close ties with eastern Europe.

"It's time to reestablish balance," Mr. Marin told a news conference.

European Union (EU) is providing about seven billion ECUs (\$6.9 billion) in aid to eastern Europe between now and the end of the century.

The EU aid would be for all non-member Mediterranean countries except Albania and ex-Yugoslavia and would supplement increased bilateral funding from EU

member states, the World Bank and other international aid donors and the private sector.

Mr. Marin also proposed a ministerial conference in 1995 to discuss peace and security in the Mediterranean.

"It's absolutely vital for our relations with the Mediterranean," he said, adding that it was particularly important that Germany, the current EU president, should take up the idea at an EU

summit in Essen in December.

All countries bordering the Mediterranean, plus Jordan, which had concluded agreements with the EU, would attend the conference.

The European Commission envisages the creation by about 2010 of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area, which would include up to 40 countries and 800 million people and be the world's largest.

It would provide free trade

in industrial products between the EU, which plans to expand to include eastern European states, and most Mediterranean countries.

But trade in agricultural products, which is extremely sensitive due to competition between southern EU member states and North African countries, would be subject to certain safeguards.

EU membership of the Mediterranean countries, unlike those in eastern Europe, is not envisaged, Mr. Marin noted.

Dollar weakness may persist for some time even as the Fed continues tight monetary policy

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Oct. 13-1994 until Wednesday, Oct. 19-1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental view: Persistent dollar weakness has a simple explanation: More money is leaving the United States than is coming in, reflecting large U.S. trade deficits and a new enthusiasm for foreign investment by U.S. residents. Rising U.S. rates should eventually help keep U.S. money at home, providing some support for the dollar. But foreign investors initially will fear capital losses on U.S. bond and stock investments as rates rise, so inflows of foreign capital may be discouraged.

As a result, dollar weakness may persist for some time even as the Fed continues to tighten monetary policy. We continue to look for the dollar to reach levels like JPY/USD 92 and DM/USD 1.45 over the next twelve months.

Technical view: The week ended Oct. 14 was a difficult one for the U.S. dollar. The greenback lost ground against four of the six major currencies that we regularly monitor, managing to rally against only the Australian and Canadian dollars. The weakness continued into the first part of the current week with sharp dollar declines on Monday. As a result, the index fell 1.3 per cent for its largest weekly decline since June. Importantly, the index now stands at its lowest weekly closing level since October 1992 and has marginally broken the 86.65-87.9 band of support that we have referenced for many weeks.

This break at least nominally raises the prospects for further weakness toward \$4.90-\$5.70. However, a momentum low has been in place for eight weeks. This means that the recent price weakness has not been confirmed and is likely a late stage move in the underlying post-February decline. Medium term resistance exists at 88.40, with long term resistance at 90.45.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound has surged against the dollar, hitting a two-year high of USD/GBP 1.619. Against the DM, the pound lost some ground following Chancellor Kohl's reelection on Sunday, dropping from last week's high of DM/GBP 2.45 to DM/GBP 2.42. The pound regained some of its losses after the post-election rally in the DM, faded. Recent data releases have been sending mixed signals about inflation prospects in the U.K. Once set of releases gave soft inflation numbers: No acceleration in September output prices, consumer confidence down and a decline in manufacturing production. Another set of releases indicate the potential for higher inflation down the road: An increase in the annual growth rate of the narrow measure of money

supply and a pickup in input costs. Data releases during the next few weeks should clarify the U.K. inflation situation.

We expect to see another two, possibly three, 50 basis point rate increases over the next twelve months which should keep inflation under control. The first of these hikes are not expected until early next year since GDP numbers due this week should indicate that third quarter growth was slightly lower than in the previous quarter. Over the next few months, we expect the pound to continue to appreciate against the Deutschmark and the U.S. dollar as both the nominal and real interest rate differentials move in favour of the pound.

Our twelve month forecast is for a stronger pound at U.S.\$/GBP 1.63 and DM/GBP 2.45.

Technical view: The British pound gained 0.5 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Oct. 14 and an additional 1.0 per cent on Monday, Oct. 17 through 1.60 U.S.\$/L resistance. The Consensus Inc. weekly sentiment reading deteriorated to its most unfavourable reading (95 per cent bulls) in the seven years we have been monitoring the data. The currency was able to hold its recent break out from its long standing trading range. Momentum remains under pressure, having made its most recent peak back in July. Recent strength, therefore, has not been confirmed and any further strength may not be sustainable.

In that regard, a break back below 1.57 U.S.\$/L would indicate that the rally trend is complete and allow for further weakness toward \$1.55. The trading range support remains at \$1.46. As for resistance, the rally through \$1.60 now allows for 1.62.

Against the DM, sterling fell 1.3 per cent last week, but remains in its multi-month downtrend. Momentum has bottomed and seems to be gathering steam. Resistance is at 2.467-2.475, with support at 2.38-2.41.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: Chancellor Kohl's victory-albeit narrow-in the German elections on Sunday helped the U.S. dollar fall to a two-year low against the DM dropping below DM/USD \$1.50 level. The dollar got a little respite following Central Bank intervention and statements by Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer that any further interest rate cuts in Germany depend in part on a strong mark.

While the dollar's decline in the immediate future may be prevented by concerted intervention by central banks, the medium-term outlook for the dollar is continued weakness against the DM. The DM is backed by sound economic fundamentals in the German economy: Moderate growth and declining inflation. The German economy grew 2.3 per cent year-over year in the second quarter following a 1.6 per cent increase in the first. Data available since then point to a

continued recovery, but there is no indication that the German economy is overheating.

Healthy growth in Germany has considerably reduced the odds for another interest rate cut, which removes one possible prop for the dollar. Our German economic unit now expect stability in German official interest rates for the next several quarters even as inflation continues to decelerate. However, Mr. Tietmeyer's reiterated that the Bundesbank is keeping open its options on the question of interest rate cuts.

Our six-month forecast is for the DM to appreciate to DM/USD 1.45 with the possibility that the level may be reached earlier.

Technical view: The Deutschmark rallied 1.8 per cent the U.S. dollar last week and closed at its highest level in two years. This breakout was magnified by a further 1.4 per cent advance on Monday. Sentiment is neutral to near overbought. Momentum has been deteriorating since August, and seems to have the potential to remain under pressure for the rest of the year.

This suggests that the recent strength (as well as the underlying uptrend that has been in force since February) is close to a top. With that in mind, it would likely take a decline back through 1.59-1.61 DM/USD to reverse that trend and confirm the action of momentum (although there is intervening resistance above 1.56). Strong resistance remains at 1.48-1.52.

Against the yen, the D-mark remains 0.7 per cent last week, but remains near its high for the year. Medium term oscillators have picked up some steam, but are overbought. We still think that once the current generates at 59-60, with resistance above 66-50.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The yen traded as high as JPY/USD 101 in a flurry of dollar optimism which followed a subdued resolution to U.S.-Japan trade talks which concluded on Sept. 30. But evidence that the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance remains at an annual rate of nearly \$60 billion points to little respite from the dollar any time soon. Likewise, a sharp net outflow of long-term capital from Japan in recent months—\$140 billion at an annual rate—looks unsustainably high relative to Japan's current account surplus of about \$130 billion. The Fed is expected to raise interest rates by another 50 basis points in mid-November and to continue to raise the funds rate to 6.25 per cent by mid-1995.

While that eventually may provide support for the dollar, rising rates may initially discourage capital inflows into U.S. stock and bond markets by raising the risk of capital losses. We expect the trend of higher U.S. rates and a weaker dollar to continue well into 1995, bringing the dollar to JPY/USD

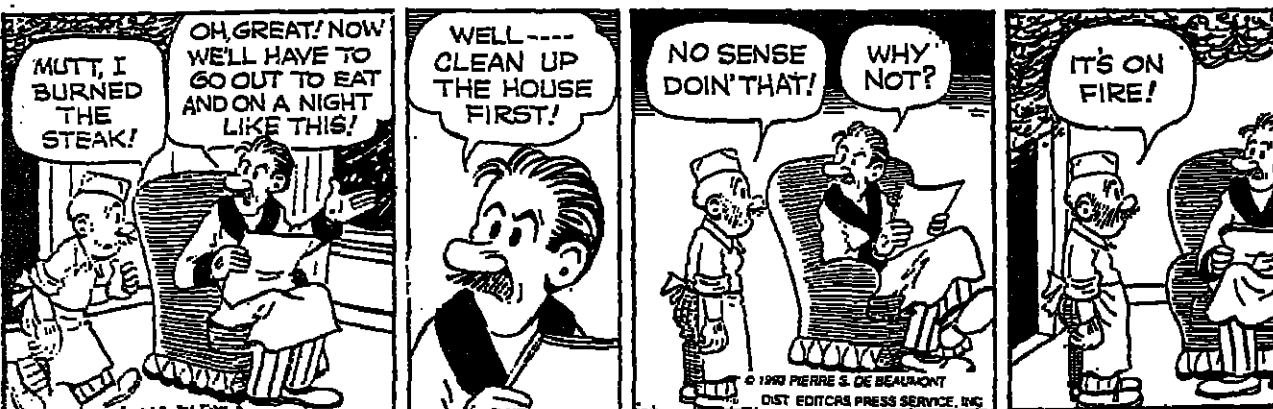
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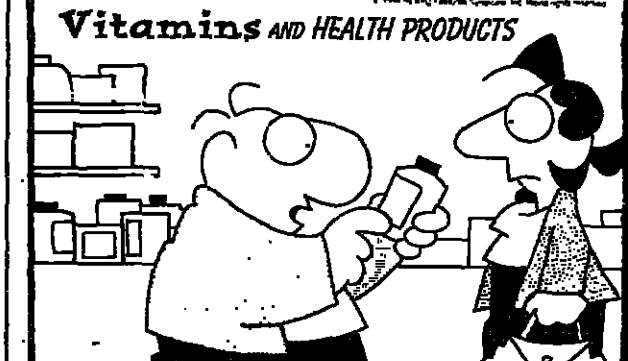
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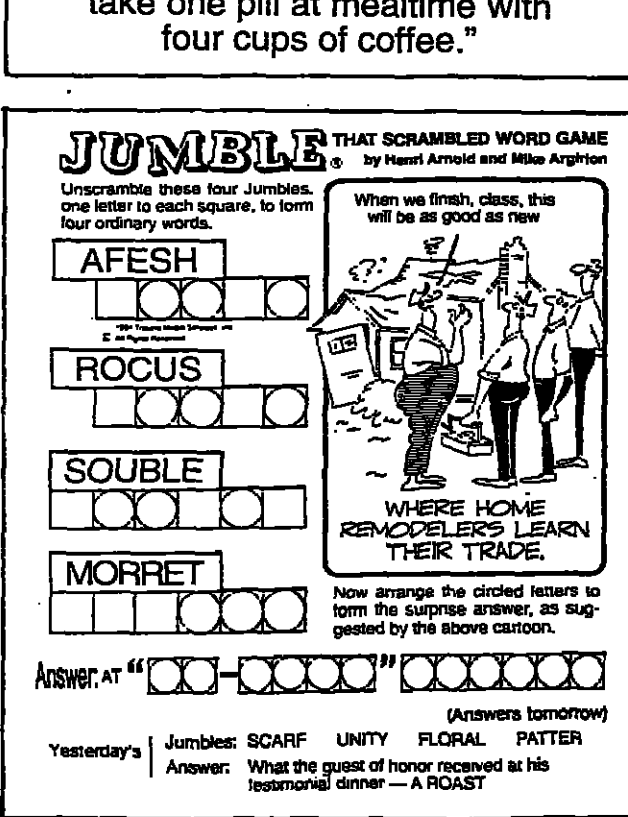
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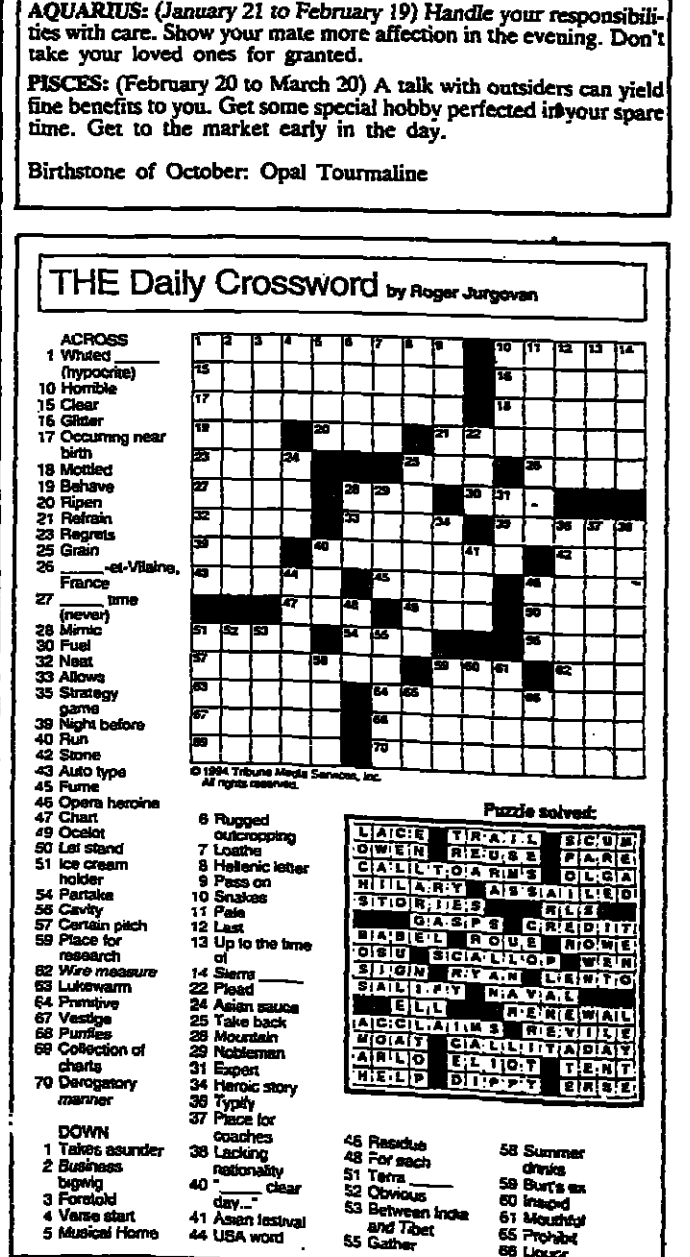
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE by Henri Arnold and Mike Arphion



THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan



By Elia Nasrallah
San Jose Times Staff Reporter

A JBA official told the Jordan Times Friday that the group, which together with a JBA team forms the Jordanian-Turkish Joint Business Council, represents a large sector of Turkey's trade, industry, contracting and engineering consultancy services as well as heads of

While industrialists from both sides will be discussing issues of common concern, the contractors will be dealing with their own line of business at separate meetings and the commercial sector discussing trade exchange at Philadelphia Hotel, said the official.

Turkey, he added, imports phosphate and potash from Jordan although the Turkish side has not imported the agreed amounts of phosphate and potash in the past years.

For instance, Turkey's imports of Jordanian phosphate in 1992 amounted to 433,000 tonnes but had dropped to 306,000 tonnes last year. This

Omani deal

The move marks a major step towards resolving the 3-1/2-year long scandal of BCCI, which was shut down in 1991 after the biggest banking fraud in history. The news came as former BCCI chief executive Swaleh Naqvi was sentenced in the United States to over 11 years in

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3577/87
	1.4900/10
	1.6701/11
	1.2385/95
	30.67/71
	5.1087/37
	1527.3/8.8
	96.76/86
	7.0573/73
	6.4840/90
	5.8220/70
One sterling	\$1.6300/10
One ounce of gold	\$391.55/391.95

Canadian dollar
 Deutschmarks
 Dutch guilders
 Swiss francs
 Belgian francs
 French francs
 Italian lire
 Japanese yen
 Swedish crowns
 Norwegian crowns
 Danish crowns

Abu Dhabi, BCCI's majority shareholder, put the money on the table in March after a previous \$1.7 billion deal, with strings attached, was thrown out by a Luxembourg court a year ago.

Tony Scott of the British-based BCCI Depositors Protection Association (DPA) said creditor committees in Luxembourg, the Cayman Islands and Britain — BCCI was registered in all three — had now accepted the package to push matters ahead.

Creditors, angry about professional costs so far, are still negotiating with the bank's liquidators Touche Ross, however, over the final payout.

"I should think there will be an announcement (of the Abu Dhabi agreement) sometime imminently," Mr. Scott told Reuters.

"There are still two key questions — when are creditors going to get their money and how much is it going to be," he added.

The agreement now has to

go before courts in all three jurisdictions, which may take several months, before Abu Dhabi pays the money to the liquidators—\$1.55 billion on court approval and the rest in two instalments over three years.

Touche Ross, which will issue the formal announcement, declined immediate comment on the deal or what happens next.

"All I can tell you is, there's nothing we're going to say today," a Touche spokeswoman said.

Previously Abu Dhabi and Touche have hoped the deal, deposit protection schemes and asset recovery would give creditors 30-40 per cent of the \$10 billion or more lost when RCCT collapsed.

Under the new terms, the Gulf emirate still stands to be repaid up to \$450 million of the money if the liquidators are successful in making certain specified recoveries.

Creditors — but not the liquidators — will still be able to sue Abu Dhabi, though, even if they accept payment.

Provisions in the last deal

"This is a global assessment. From Abu Dhabi's point of view the next step is court approval so finally we can go on and the creditors get paid. That's what we all want," one adviser to the country's government said.

The current deal is just one piece in a jigsaw of claim and counter claim in the BCCI affair, which has involved allegations of fraud, money-laundering and negligence by regulators.

Creditors, including British action group the DPA, claim that Abu Dhabi shares responsibility with BCCI founder Agha Hassan Abedi and a rack of former officials for the collapse.

Former executives and accomplices have already been jailed in Britain and Abu Dhabi or extradited for questioning by United States authorities. The U.S. has also been seeking — unsuccessfully so far — the extradition of

Mr. Abedi, who is reported to be in poor health after taking refuge in Pakistan. Until August, the DPA was resisting the current deal, partly down to the success the U.S. has achieved for credit.

Liquidation costs, which the DPA estimates to be at least \$200 million so far, have forced it to cave in amid bitter disputes with Touche Ross, which has taken the lion's share.

An \$8 billion claim has also been made against former BCCI auditors Price Water-

house and Ernst Young, with a lawsuit likely to follow. Abu Dhabi will only be repaid \$450 million to the extent that any such suits are successful, advisers say.

Federal Judge Joyce Green said in handing down the sentence that Mr. Naqvi should not credit for the na-

Mr. Naqvi in July pleaded guilty to three criminal charges of fraud and con-

charges of fraud and conspiracy. He admitted he engaged with other BCCI executives in a racketeering conspiracy to secretly control several U.S. banks, including First American Bank in the Washington, D.C., area.

Other Currencies		Date: 26 10 1962
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.3210	1.3250
Lebanese Lira	0.020050	0.020055
Saudi Riyal	0.1825	0.1850
Kuwait's Dinar	2.2120	2.2510
Qatari Riyal	2.1655	2.1612
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani-Riyal	--	1.7640
UAE Dirham	1.1875	1.2020
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.1690
Cypriot Pound	1.2510	1.2550

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 10/15/1996 - 10/16/1996				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL CEMENT TRADING & STORAGE	25,124	0.880	0.880	0.890
CHINAIR WARE FACILITIES	38,548	0.680	0.670	0.670
DEVELOPMENT FOR DEVEL. & TRAD. CO	750	0.950	0.950	0.950
XANSA POLYMER UNIVERSITY	32,750	1.720	1.680	1.670
CHINA POLYMER FOR SHIMULING HARB TRAF.	482,323	1.320	2.030	2.370
CHINA POLYMER INVESTMENT	261,528	1.400	1.600	1.580
PP4W WINE & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	4,122	1.300	1.110	1.150
CHINA POLYMER FOR SHIMULING HARB TRAF.	85,152	2.800	2.180	2.140
NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS INT. CO	1,580	1.380	1.520	1.520
CHINA WINE CABLE COMPANY	55,651	2.170	2.150	2.150
CHINA POLYMER INVESTMENT	92,943	1.480	1.620	1.580
CHINA POLYMER INVESTMENT	20,111	2.620	2.620	2.620
EX-ZAO BENTLEY WINE MANUFACTURING CO.	529,042	2.800	2.700	2.820
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	9,961	2.800	2.740	2.820
CHINA POLYMER INVESTMENT	183,802	1.470	1.640	1.640
CHINA POLYMER INVESTMENT	887	3.140	3.090	3.090
GRAND TOTAL	2,937,543			

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King meets taekwondo team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received at the Royal Court members of the Jordan national taekwondo team which represented the Kingdom at the Asian Games which concluded in Hiroshima, Japan, last Sunday.

King Hussein thanked the delegation and voiced pride in its members and their achievements.

The taekwondo team won four medals in the games.

two silver and two bronze medals, thus placing Jordan 22nd on the final medals table.

President of the Jordan Taekwondo Federation Issa Al Rimoni said in an address to the audience that Jordan has won 563 gold, silver and bronze medals at various regional and international taekwondo competitions over the past 15 years.

Mr. Rimoni attributed

these achievements to King Hussein's and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's support for Jordanian athletes.

King Hussein conferred upon the coach of the national taekwondo team Al Istiklal Medal of the third order in appreciation of his efforts.

The audience was attended by Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Youth Minister Fawwaz Abul Ghanam and senior officials.

World No. 1 Sampras rules out quest for Grand Slam

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Elusive Grand Slam of four major titles in the same year is unlikely to be achieved again, world number one Pete Sampras said Friday.

The first and only Grand Slam of The Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open was by legendary Australian Rod Laver in 1969, the second year of "Open" tennis.

Sampras believes it will never be repeated, even though greats of the past like Ken Rosewall and Laver himself have said in the past month that he is the only modern player capable of it.

"I don't think it is possible, but you never know," Sampras said. "To win all four in today's game is very tough to do."

Sampras said the variety of surfaces in the game was

against a Grand Slam.

In Laver's victorious sweep, the Australian and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon were played on grass and the French Open on clay.

The Australian and U.S. Opens have since moved to hardcourt surfaces.

Sampras has won two U.S. Opens and one Australian Open on hardcourt and two Wimbledon titles on grass. The French Open on clay has proved to be the most elusive title for him.

Sampras is slowly feeling his way back from injury after a record-breaking start to the year that saw him win eight tournaments and set up a record lead at the top of the men's rankings.

He is in Hong Kong for an exhibition tournament, his first outing since pulling out of the Davis Cup last month with a hamstring injury. His

only other tournament in the last three months was the U.S. Open, where he was again affected by a leg injury.

The 23-year-old is gradually working his way back to full fitness and hopes to use tournaments in Stockholm and Paris to regain peak form before the ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt from November 13.

Despite the loss of a third of the year, Sampras was pleased with his year after winning the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

"My goal this year was to win just one major and I won two," he said. "I can live with that for the next 10 years."

Sampras was also unconcerned by suggestions from former world number one Stefan Edberg that he could easily lose his top ranking in the new year.

Ivanisevic, Agassi, Stich advance in Vienna

VIENNA (Agencies) — Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic fired 16 aces, many at critical break points, to beat Canadian Greg Rusedski Thursday and reach the quarterfinals of the CA Trophy tennis tournament.

Rusedski used his own blistering serve to take his Croatian opponent to two tiebreaks, but Ivanisevic found the necessary power at just the right moments to escape in straight sets, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (11-9).

In other play, flamboyant U.S. star Andre Agassi, the No. 3 seed, looked comfortable in a 6-0, 6-0 drubbing of Australian Mark Woodforde. No. 2 seed Michael Stich of Germany also advanced, beating countryman Carsten Braasch 6-3, 6-4.

Fourth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria had a scare when he was beset by wrist and knee pain in the middle of his second set against the Czech Republic's David Rikl, but he held on to win 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

In an earlier match, unseeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands defeated Germany's Marc Kevin Goellner, 6-3, 7-5.

Ivanisevic fell five back and capped the win with his 16th ace.

"I was very lucky," Ivanisevic said. "He said a lot of break points, and every time there was a break point I won my serve."

Ivanisevic, second in the world ATP rankings, is favoured to defend his title at the \$410,000 CA Trophy event in the Vienna Sunday over American Michael Chang in the final of the Seiko Super tennis tournament in Tokyo.

But Agassi is rapidly

becoming a favourite among local fans and interviewers, good-naturedly fielding questions about his love life and legs as well as serves from his opponents.

Agassi is ranked 10th in the world by the ATP following his win at the U.S. Open, where he beat Stich in the final. CA Trophy officials and fans hope for a rematch in Vienna.

Agassi is banking on a good showing to boost his chances of reaching the ATP's top eight, which would give him place in the Masters Tournament in Frankfurt.

He said at a news conference Wednesday that he hopes to finish the season in the top five.

Courier continues demolition job

In Paris, former world number-one Jim Courier continued his one-man demolition of French tennis Thursday when he beat Arnaud Boetsch 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) to reach the quarterfinals at the Lyon ATP event.

In the first round Courier, who is seeded fourth, defeated another French hope — Guy Forget.

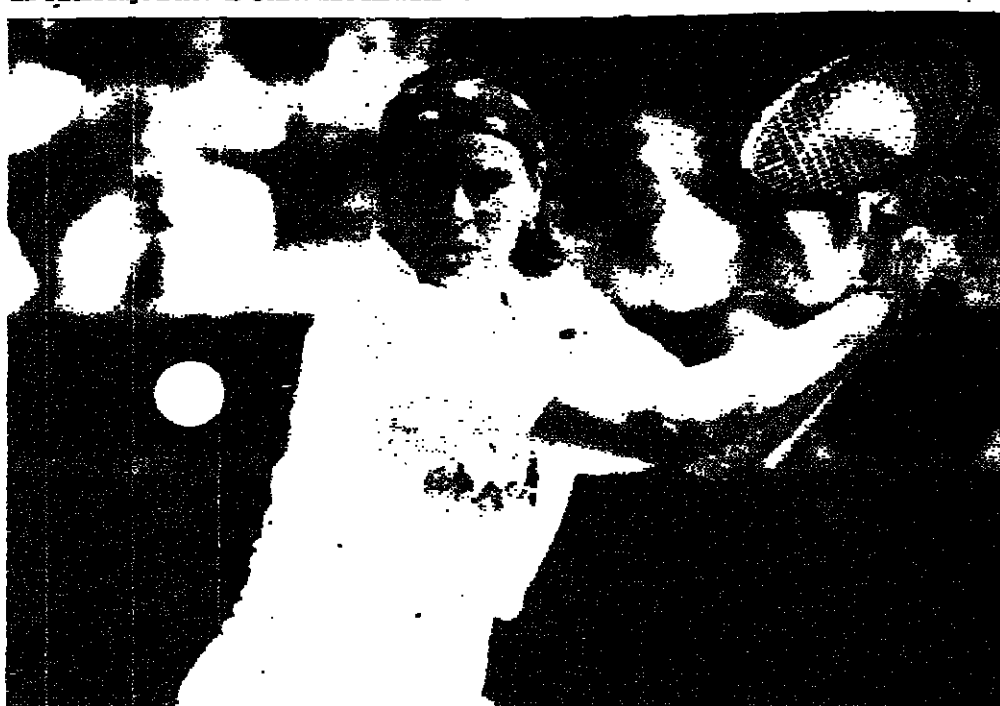
Top-seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev chalked up an easy 6-3, 6-2 win over Henrik Drenkann — the German making too many unforced errors in the first set and Medvedev saving his best tennis for the second.

The young Ukrainian now faces Australian Davis Cup player Patrick Rafter who scored a 6-3, 6-4 win over Switzerland's Jakob Halsek.

Third-seeded South African Ferreira had to go the distance to beat



Photo above shows Michael Stich who defeated countryman Carsten Braasch 6-3, 6-4 in Vienna Thursday. Below is Conchita Martinez who was eliminated from Brighton tournament by Larisa Neiland of Latvia.



Sweden's Lars Rehmann 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-6) and victory meant a show-down with big-serving Swiss Olympic champion Marc Rosset.

Rosset, who won the tournament here in 1990, had to come from a set down to beat Czech player Danien Vacek 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

The only seed to fall

by the wayside was Mali-Vai Washington of the United States. The winner of last week's Ostrava tournament went down to Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 4-6, 6-7 (4-7).

Chesnokov now faces second-seeded compatriot Yevgeni Kafelnikov for a place in the last four.

There were no surprises in Vienna where top-seed Goran Ivanisevic squeezed past Greg Rusedski of Canada 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (11-9).

In the day's other results, United States Open champion Andre Agassi humiliated Mark Woodforde of Australia 6-0, 6-0, while second seed Michael Stich and Austrian fourth-seed Thomas Muster both notched up straight-set wins.

Martinez bundled out by Neiland

In Brighton, England Larisa Neiland of Latvia emerged as the player to beat at the international women's indoor tourna-

ment here Thursday when she hammered top-seed Conchita Martinez 6-1, 6-3.

Neiland, ranked 47th, needed just 51 minutes to send Spain's Wimbledon champion packing and her win immediately raised speculation about Martinez's performance.

Organisers had agreed to fly Martinez in a private jet to Zurich Friday so that she could attend her coach's wedding. Her Thursday defeat means this will no longer be necessary.

Neiland, who hadn't taken a set off Martinez in four previous encounters, claimed after her win that she had sensed that Martinez was "not ready to give me a fight."

"I could see it in her face that she was relaxing. I had a feeling that if I won the first set then I would win the second."

Other winners were second Jana Novotna, fellow Czech Helena Sukova, Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria and Nathalie Tauziat of France.

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♦ A K 4
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♦ A Q J 10

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♦ 7
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♦ Q 10 8 5
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♦ K Q J 8 6 3 2
♦ 7
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5♦ Pass 7♦ Pass

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There are usually several ways you can tackle a hand. This grand slam offered so many lines you need a calculator to work out the best odds.

With a balanced 18 points and no diamond stopper, North could do no more than respond two clubs—and was startled to hear partner leap to game to show a self-sufficient suit and limited values, but great playing potential. When Blackwood revealed no quick loser in diamonds, North could hardly be blamed for jacking the plunge in seven spades.

In a way, it was an unfortunate

dummy that hit the table. Had the king of hearts been either the king of clubs or queen of diamonds, declarer could have claimed. The actual layout left South with a host of options. The obvious, and worst, was to simply guess which finessse to take. Even the best guesser could not get this one right.

Considerably better would be to discard a diamond on the ace of hearts, draw trumps and cash the ace and king of diamonds. If the queen doesn't drop, cross to dummy with the last trump, discard the remaining diamond on the ace of hearts and ruff a red card to get back to hand. Now the slam depends on the club finessse—tough luck. Alternatively, you can arrange to take a ruffing finessse in clubs, but that's still a 50-50 proposition.

Best of all is to discard a club on the king of hearts, cash the ace of clubs and ruff a club high. Return to dummy with a trump and ruff another club high. When the king comes down, you can, after drawing the last trump, discard two diamonds on the ace of hearts and queen of clubs. If the king doesn't drop, fall back on the diamond finessse.

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Lawyer to pursue Maier civil suit

MUNICH (R) — The lawyer of the late Austrian Alpine ski racer Ulrike Maier's fiancé said Friday he would pursue a civil suit for compensation after her death in a World Cup downhill last January.

Lawyer Guenther Stanonik said he would also challenge a German prosecutor's findings that there was no proof of negligence on the part of the organisers of the event at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany.

Prosecutors in Munich said Wednesday that they had closed their investigation into the 26-year-old Maier's death.

Munich public prosecutor Ruediger Hoedl said that security officials had been found to have taken sufficient safety measures at the Garmisch-Partenkirchen course where the former world champion broke her neck in a horrifying crash.

"We are completely unimpressed by this decision," Stanonik told Reuters by telephone from his Austrian office. "We know that there is a definite case for culpability here."

He added: "We will certainly pursue all civil channels for a suit and we will challenge the decision of the public prosecutor in Munich."

Stanonik said he and his client Hubert Schweighofer, who was engaged to Maier and is seeking compensation to bring up their daughter Melanie, would hold a news conference in Munich at the end of October or early November to outline their next move.

Hoedl said that it had been established that Maier died as a result of the back of her neck hitting a mound of snow at the side of the course and not a timing post which television pictures indicated could have been the cause of death.

Stanonik said he was sceptical about this claim.

The case can be reopened under German law and an appeal is possible.

Maier's death cast a shadow over the 1993-1994 season and set off an intense debate about increased speed in the sport with improvements in equipment and the use of artificial snow.



Ulrike Maier

Warriors defeat Spain's Joventut Badalona 122-104

BADALONA, Spain (AP)

The Golden State Warriors 122-104 victory over European champions Joventut Badalona Thursday was not without a few moments that faintly hinted the NBA team might be the first to lose to a foreign club.

Joventut, with some of Golden State's starters on the bench, closed to within three points at 5:40 of the second quarter when American John Ebeling made it 47-44. The Spanish club was behind 71-61 at halftime as Golden State struggled with Joventut's zone defences and better passing.

Latrell Sprewell scored 24 points and Chris Mullin added 22 to lead Golden State. American Mike Smith had 21 points and 20 rebounds to lead Joventut. Smith, who has never played in the NBA, played his college basketball at South Carolina at Spartanburg and is in his seventh season play-

ing in Spain.

"I wasn't very pleased with our first half," Golden State coach Don Nelson said. "We didn't do the things coming out of the lockerroom. I expected my veteran team to execute better from the start."

"The difference in the international game is a big difference... your better passers in the game do better and others tend to struggle," Nelson added.

He said his team had trouble with Joventut's zone defences, which are not allowed in the NBA. An enthusiastic crowd of 8,846 in Badalona's Olympic Pavilion — site of basketball in the 1992 Olympics — also had Joventut playing over their heads for much of the game.

The fans particularly cheered the play of the Warriors' David Wood, who had 12 points. Wood, who just signed with Golden State, played several seasons in Barcelona for the FC Barce-

lona club.

Those same fans in this Barcelona suburb have had little to cheer about with Joventut. They are only 5-5 in the Spanish League and clearly had their best game of the season against the Warriors.

Sprewell said there wasn't that much to adjust to. But in truth, Mullins, Sprewell and Tim Hardaway had played over eyes as they answered a few quick questions at a brief news conference.

"The biggest (rules) difference for us was the (zone) defence," Sprewell said. "They were able to sag in and that gave us trouble. But other than that, we didn't have too much trouble adjusting."

Mullins put it more clearly. "We're all anxious to get home and get back to our routines," he said.

Joventut coach Pedro Martinez was expecting a disaster.

"Before the game, I thought we might get slaughtered," he said. "The second quarter was our best — we were in the game at that point. But there's no question they're the better team."

The Warriors played a stronger second half, but playing two games in Europe in three nights showed. They defeated the Charlotte Hornets Tuesday in Paris 132-116.

The NBA technically has lost once to a non-NBA team, but NBA spokesman Terry Lyons said it didn't count as an "official game."

The Atlanta Hawks lost in the last 1980s in Moscow to the Soviet Union's national team in a "summer league" game. Lyons said: He said the game was sanctioned neither by the NBA nor by FIBA, the world governing body of basketball. He also noted the loss was against a national team, not a club team.

Early goals set Arsenal on their way

EURO ROUNDUP

PARIS (AFP) — English Premiership giants Arsenal held on grimly after two early goals to score a 2-1 away win over plucky Danish opponents Brondy in their latest European Cup-Winners cup clash Thursday.

Everything had looked plain sailing for the titleholders in the first-leg of the second-round clash when Ian Wright and Alan Smith scored within three minutes of each other in the first quarter of an hour. But, on a freezing evening, the Danes came roaring back to reduce the deficit eight minutes after the break through striker Marc Strudel.

Strudel had come close to scoring a shocking first minute goal but he was spectacularly denied by goalkeeper David Seaman.

Both sides had two players booked. Arsenal's Lee Dixon and Stefan Schwarz were shown yellow cards while Brondy's Jens Risaager missed the return for his second caution in the competition.

Arsenal's London rivals Chelsea failed to turn an evening of one-way traffic against ten-man Austria Vienna into goals.

The visitors, who had Manfred Schmid sent off for the last twenty minutes for a second yellow card, packed their defence and held out superbly leaving the Stamford Bridge crowd frustrated.

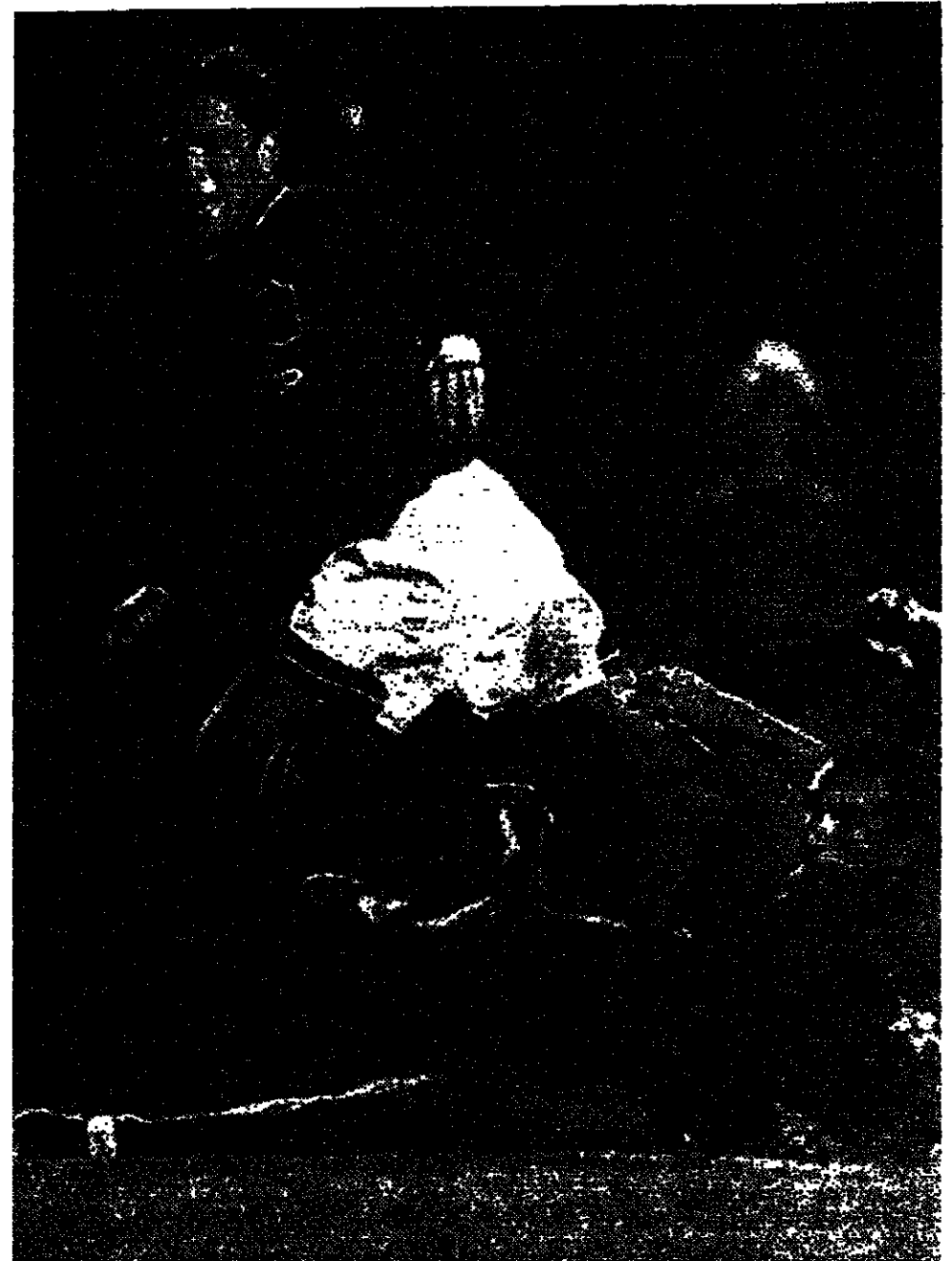
Dennis Wise was involved in some promising early moves for Chelsea, but he was the object of some vigorous Austrian tackling.

The England midfielder might well have opened the scoring in the 20th minute but his effort was thwarted when Furlong intercepted and headed over.

Chelsea's cause wasn't helped by the early removal of Frank Sinclair with hamstring trouble. He was replaced by Anthony Barnes. Barnes almost immediately contributed a cross that Neil Shipperley put just over the angle.

The second half brought more Chelsea pressure, but the attacks became more frantic and some of the shooting more ambitious. David Rocastle, increasingly influential on the right, burst on to a through ball but saw his 77th minute shot hit the post in Austria's closest call.

Eddie Newton hit a good chance wide, Furlong turned his man and fired just over and Graham Rix had a free



Manchester's Lee Sharp (top) jumps over an unidentified Barcelona player (on ground) after scoring the second and equalising goal during their Champions' League Group A game at Old Trafford Stadium Wednesday. The match ended in a 2-2 draw (AFP photo)

kick tipped over by Wohlfahrt.

Vienna showed in patches and were denied a penalty in the 63rd minute when Fogel was bundled over by Newtown with the goal gaping.

French side Auxerre, surged back after looking down and out in Istanbul when Besiktas turned round leading 2-0.

Dzilek Mehmet opened the scoring for the Turks five minutes from the half-time whistle and Ertugrulo scored a second just before the teams turned round. It would have been the end of the road for many teams.

But, to their credit, the French charged back after the restart and produced

their own five-minute blitz in which Algerian frontrunner Moussa Saib and Corentin Martins were on target to put the teams all square.

Sampdoria, who won the competition in 1990, left in late but finally emerged impressive 3-0 home winners over Swiss opponents Grasshoppers Zurich.

Alessandro Melli put the Italians clear from the second-half kick off while Sinisa Mihajlovic (78) and Ricardo Maspero (85) clinched the victory.

FC Port humiliated visiting Hungarian opponents Ferencvaros 6-0.

Already four goals clear on the hour thanks to two goals from Drulovic and one apiece from Jorge Costa and Rui

Baros, the Portuguese side added two more in the last three minutes through Domingos and Brazilian defender Aloisio.

Tatran Presov of Slovakia, reduced to ten men when defender Peter Hlusko was sent off in the 35th minute, crashed to a 4-0 defeat in front of their fans against Spanish opponents Real Zaragoza.

Russian midfield player Gustavo Foyet opened the floodgates in the 26th minute and an own-goal from Varga (44) and two goals from Esnaider (49, 85) followed. The result leaves Presov needing a miracle when the two sides meet again in two week's time in Spain.

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U.S., N. Korea sign nuclear deal

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.S. and North Korean negotiators signed a landmark accord Friday aimed at ending nuclear tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The agreement, reached after more than a year of confrontation and start-stop negotiations and decades of suspicion and bitterness, commits North Korea to opening its secretive nuclear programme in return for modern technology, aid and diplomatic links with the United States.

Chief U.S. negotiator Robert L. Gallucci and his North Korean counterpart Kang Sok Ju signed the documents at North Korea's diplomatic mission to the United Nations.

After the signing, the delegations erupted into applause. Mr. Gallucci and Mr. Kang, who led the difficult negotiations, appeared relaxed.

"I'll see you again," they joked to each other as they left the small conference room.

The four-page accord contained an additional two-page confidential document, the contents of which will not be made public.

In addition to curbing North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the two sides notably pledged to "move towards full normalisation of political and economic relations," and work towards a "nuclear-free Korean Peninsula," according to the official text.

The deal is billed as marking the end of any plans Pyongyang might have to build an atomic bomb, using plutonium from a type of reactor that will now be scrapped under the terms of the agreement — assuming

the ambitions have not already been realised.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Gallucci handed the North Koreans a letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton guaranteeing the delivery of light water reactors, which produce less plutonium than Pyongyang's present system, as well as oil in exchange for a freeze on its current nuclear programme.

On arrival in Geneva on Friday, Mr. Gallucci who admitted in Washington that the accord was far from perfect, said he hoped "this framework document... should resolve the outstanding issue over DPRK's (North Korea) nuclear programme and... set North Korean-American relations on a better track."

The text notably said that "the U.S. will provide full assurances to the DPRK against the threat or use of nuclear weapons by the U.S."

In return, "the DPRK will consistently take steps to implement the North-South joint denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" and would "engage in North-South dialogue" with Seoul. Defence Secretary William Perry extended two olive branches to Pyongyang to coincide with the accord. Mr. Perry said Washington would consider reducing its troop strength in South Korea if North Korea cut its forces and pulled back from the peninsula's demilitarised zone.

Mr. Perry said no reduction in the 37,000 strong U.S. troop contingent was under consideration, but added that cuts would be considered "when a reduction in (the North Korean) threat has been made."

Arafat criticises Israel, Hamas and Jordan treaty

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has sharply criticised the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, calling it a "serious breach" of the autonomy accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In a speech to some 3,000 supporters, Mr. Arafat also denounced the Israeli closure on Gaza and attacks on Israelis by the Hamas group.

Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip indefinitely after Wednesday's bombing of a Tel Aviv bus that killed 21 people. A Hamas faction claimed responsibility for the attack.

"These orders deprive our sons of their work... they are an attempt to make the Palestinian people kneel down," Mr. Arafat told a rally of 3,000 supporters.

Mr. Arafat's aide, Marwan Kanafani, called the closure "a declaration of war, an economic and social war against the Palestinian society."

Mr. Arafat chided Hamas, that has claimed responsibility for last week's shooting spree in the Jerusalem cafe district and the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli soldier, as well as the bombing in Tel Aviv.

The Palestinian leader called Hamas an embarrassment and said that the attacks, intended to force Israel to release Palestinians held in Israeli jails, were counterproductive.

"Before the Jerusalem operation, Israel intended to release Ahmad Yassin and the female prisoners," Mr. Arafat said. "There is no need to say that if this had not happened Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin would have released them."

Sheikh Yassin is the spiritual leader of Hamas.

Mr. Arafat also slammed the draft peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, his concern stemming from Israel's promise to honour Jordan's special role in overseeing Muslim shrines in Jerusalem.

"Concerning Jerusalem, what has been done in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement is a big and serious breach of what had been signed in Washington between the Palestinians and Israelis," Mr. Arafat claimed.

"The next battle will be for Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat said. "They think it is far off, but we think it is very near."

He urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein to recognise the Holy City as the "capital of Palestine."

"Listen to me Hussein and Rabin," Mr. Arafat said, referring to the Monarch by name for the first time since the war flared in July.

"Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, no matter what (treaties) have been signed in Amman or elsewhere."

Correspondents said they had seldom seen Mr. Arafat in such a rage.

He said he was claiming for "the Palestinian people the earthly and spiritual powers" over the holy city.

"I tell everybody, those who will like what I am saying and those who will not, that Jerusalem is our capital and is not negotiable," Mr. Arafat said.

"Our battle is very difficult. It is the battle of Jerusalem and we will fight it," he added.



SIEGE: Israeli soldier checks identity cards of occupied West Bank and the self-rule Gaza Strip after the Israeli army sealed off the

Anani explains highlights of Jordan-Israel treaty

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Jawad Anani said Israel would withdraw its forces from occupied Jordanian lands within nine months of the exchange of peace treaty documents with Jordan and the withdrawal will lead to the final demarcation of the common border.

Speaking on Jordan Television, the minister said Jordan had insisted that the demarcation line should be on the basis of the same international boundary line between Jordan and Palestine under the British mandate but this does not affect the lines dividing the East from the West Banks because the demarcation of Jordanian-Palestinian boundaries can only take place once the Palestinians have achieved liberation from occupation.

Jordan has been able to regain its sovereignty over land and water rights and this is a very essential point provided for in the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which served as a basis for the negotiations. Dr. Anani said.

Through the peace treaty, Jordan hopes to reach a just and permanent peace that ensures no aggression by one side against the other, ending 46 years of hostility, he added.

The minister noted that Jordan has the right to an 820 dunum plot of land in an area which is currently under Israeli occupation and being developed since 1948 by the Israeli side.

He said that this plot of land will be leased to Israel

for 25 years under a special agreement which would allow Israelis the right of access to this land under Jordanian sovereignty and Jordanian laws and would allow for joint Israeli-Jordanian schemes in the land.

Jordan and Israel have also agreed to swap five square kilometres of land in the south. This land has been used by the Israelis to expand their potash plant. The problem was solved when Jordan agreed to swap this land with another five square kilometres from the Israeli side to expand the site of the Arab Potash Company plants and so "we lost nothing there," Dr. Anani said. With these arrangements the minister said Jordan has not only regained its own property but also transformed the ceasefire line into permanent boundary.

He said that the peace treaty calls for cultural and scientific exchange but does not stipulate a Jordanian religious curricula changes Dr. Anani said.

The minister said Jordan had insisted that the Middle East region should be free of all such weapons of mass destruction. But Israel insisted that it would not discuss this subject as there are countries still hostile to Israel using such weapons.

Jordan and Israel have agreed to refrain from attacking each other with conventional, biological or nuclear weapons that the banning of all kinds of weapons should be discussed at the regional

level. Dr. Anani said that with the signing of the Washington Declaration, Jordan and Israel pledged to end the state of belligerency. This means that neither side will allow its lands to be used as a platform for attacks on the other side and that the two sides will seek to settle complaints and disputes in amicable and peaceful ways.

The minister said that under the peace treaty the two sides will exchange diplomatic representation and open embassies and consulates within one month after the ratification of the documents.

According to the minister, the peace treaty stipulates that the two sides should refrain from using insulting and shameful language against each other through the official information services but left the door open for the private media to air its views which means neither side can protest against the publication of writers' views in the press.

Dr. Anani said the two sides endorsed articles for cooperation in tourism transport telecommunication and technological and other exchanges in general principles. The minister noted in particular that the Israelis had asked that Israel and Jordan embark immediately on trade exchanges but Jordan had asked for more time because this requires special agreements to allow goods from Jordan to be marketed in

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton's tour underscores acceleration of peace process

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton's first tour of the Middle East last week underscores the acceleration of the peace process and at the same the isolation of Syria, which still remains far from an accord with Israel.

Mr. Clinton will participate Wednesday in the signing of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel — an achievement similar in magnitude to the accord between Israel and Egypt signed some 15 years ago.

Mr. Clinton will address the Knesset, Israel's parliament, then inspect U.S. troops deployed in Kuwait and travel to Cairo to pay homage to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for his role as a mediator in the peace process.

And even though Syria has been a sticking point, the White House did not rule out Thursday a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, which could change the trip dramatically.

Such a meeting could take place in Damascus or Cairo. The last time a U.S. president traveled to Syria was 1974 when Richard Nixon visited.

As a spinoff, this four-day mission could also serve to consolidate Mr. Clinton's stature as statesman with voters at home.

The mid-election campaign is entering its final two weeks and even though Mr. Clinton is not running for office, any rise in his standing could help the Democrats who face the possible loss of one or both houses of Congress.

Mr. Clinton's arrival in Israel will come a week after the Islamic group Hamas killed 22 people in a bloody suicide car-bomb attack on

an Israeli bus. Hamas has steadfastly opposed to the peace process.

One sign that Syria, which still remains on the U.S. list of countries supporting "terrorism," is not totally out in the cold, U.S. officials immediately contacted the Syrians to seek help in controlling the Hamas attacks.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will accompany Mr. Clinton, then head off to the Middle East/North African Economic Summit in Casablanca, Morocco, Oct. 30 through Nov. 1.

The Conference brings together financial institutions, government officials and businessmen from the United States, Europe, the Middle East and the North Africa.

Organised by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the conference is supposed to demonstrate the concrete benefits of peace.

Dennis Ross, State Department coordinator for the Middle East described the conference as the economic equivalent of the October 1991 meeting in Madrid that launched the peace process.

The United States is counting on the Casablanca summit to help create regional development agents — such as a bank, chamber of commerce and tourism — and to attract private investment.

Lending their weight to the conference will be the foreign ministers from Russia and France, Andrei Kozyrev and Alain Juppee, the majority of the Israeli cabinet and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat.

Syria is not sending a representative to the meeting, which it regards as premature in the absence of a compre-

hensive Middle East peace.

But a U.S. official did not rule out the possibility that Damascus may set forth its economic and financial demands in exchange for a peace agreement with Israel, although it has not done so yet.

Mr. Assad has actively criticised the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement, while saying he will not try to torpedo it.

The Palestinians, who were the first to sign an accord with Israel since 1991, seem to have been marginalised by the events surrounding the latest accord.

The Israeli-Jordanian accord acknowledges Jordan's hosting over the Muslim holy places in East Jerusalem, which the PLO has designs on as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

On the economic front, donor countries have soured on the idea of releasing hundreds of millions of dollars in promised aid to the Palestinians, seeking transparency in the management of these funds.

The United States has taken Mr. Arafat to task for attempting to control everything himself, complicating the smallest administrative steps.

Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton's visit to Cairo should serve to appease Mr. Mubarak who has complained of not being consulted by Jordan and Israel before concluding their treaty.

It could also assuage Mr. Mubarak's concerns over not being in the loop over the past weeks on the decision to deploy troops in the Gulf region to counter Iraqi movement near the Kuwait border.

U.N. seeks to end Bosnia aid logjam

SARAJEVO (R) — People in a Muslim enclave besieged by Bosnian Serbs are living in nightmarish conditions, a senior aid worker said on Friday as U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi began efforts to unblock winter aid for civilians.

Mr. Akashi's mission coincided with a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) meeting to resolve a quarrel with U.N. peacekeepers over the use of air power to protect the Muslim enclaves and U.N. forces who guard them.

Kris Janowski of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said conditions in the mountain settlement of Srebrenica were typical after weeks of disruption of the U.N. aid network by Serb forces.

The enclave in eastern Bosnia, glutted with refugees, has no electricity and is short of food and medicine. Bosnian Serbs have stopped fuel convoys and have allowed only a quarter of its food supplies to cross their checkpoints.

Doctors expect to run out of antibiotics and painkillers shortly. "In urban Srebrenica, 90 per cent of the people are displaced persons," Mr. Janowski said after a visit. "It's like a nightmarish waiting room with everyone waiting to go home. They want to get out but they can't."

There are 22,000 Muslims in Srebrenica, whose pre-war population was no more than 6,000, and 20,000 more in the surrounding area.

Mr. Janowski said the plight was similar in the neighbouring Muslim enclaves of Zepa and Gorazde which have been equally hit by the refusal of the Bosnian Serbs to let many UNHCR convoys cross their territory.

The Serbs are also refusing to let fuel supplies cross their lines to the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) which is on the verge of being unable to carry out its peacekeeping duties.

The blockade follows Bosnian Serb rejection of a big-power peace plan and a NATO airstrike against them in September.

Mr. Akashi, the U.N.

secretary-general's representative in Bosnia, arrived in Sarajevo and was due to meet Bosnian Serb representatives in their capital Pale on Saturday.

"I think persuasion is necessary but I hope we still have some credibility," the Japanese diplomat said.

Mr. Akashi earlier this month coaxed the Serbs to withdraw a threat to shoot down aircraft which closed Sarajevo airport for almost three weeks and halted the U.N. air bridge for relief supplies.

The aid situation has been lent urgency by the onset of winter which will disrupt U.N. ground convoys even if Mr. Akashi can get the Serbs to allow them free access.

Mr. Akashi was beginning his talks in Sarajevo in an effort to persuade the Muslim-led government to withdraw its forces from a demilitarised zone near the city.

A Serb deadline for the withdrawal on Thursday passed without incident.

A NATO source said in Brussels as the alliance met that it hoped to reach agreement with the United Nations on the use of air strikes against the Serbs. Peacekeepers have been reluctant to call on NATO fighter-bombers for fear of retaliation.

NATO was willing to compromise on its demand to be allowed to choose its targets and deny the Serbs any warning they would be attacked, he added.

But even if a consensus is reached, other NATO sources said the problem of bureaucratic delays would remain. "They will end up with a form of words which is very muscular but which fails to stop the rot in NATO's credibility," one source said.

NATO puts air power at the peacekeepers' disposal at U.N. request but has been relegated to a spectating role in the conflict by Mr. Akashi's refusal to confront the Serbs.

The strain on relations between the organisations was underlined by a military source who said: "The Serbs are laughing at us. We are being dragged down to the U.N.'s level of credibility, which is pretty low these days."

Column 800000

Night rhythms bad news for workers

LONDON (R) — British researchers have found clear evidence that night workers are at higher risk of injury than colleagues on day shifts, a study published in the Lancet medical journal said Saturday.

Dr. Lawrence Smith and his colleagues at the University of Sheffield, in northern England, also found the risk of injury on night shifts increased towards the end of the working week. "Our study offers clear evidence that safety is reduced during night work, at least relative to the morning shift," said the study based on analysis of 4,645 injury records among 4,250 night-shift workers in a year at a large engineering company.

The company operated a three-shift system of eight hours each to allow round-the-clock work from Monday to Friday. "The frequency of injuries increased significantly from the morning shift (6 a.m. to 2 p.m.), through the afternoon shift (2 p.m. to 8 p.m.) to the night shift (8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next day)," the study said. Nearly 30 per cent of injuries occurred in the morning, 34 per cent in the afternoon and more than 36 per cent at night. The study, which also found that night-time accidents were more severe than those during the day, said the higher accident rate did not appear to be a function of lack of sleep since workers on night shifts had more sleep than day workers. "It seems more likely that the increased injury rates at night reflect workers' circadian rhythms in performance capabilities and alertness, which had failed to adjust sufficiently to the night shift," it said.

Circadian biorhythms are a person's 24-hour body clock. The rhythms have an impact on production of the adrenal steroid hormone cortisol, which controls many vital body processes.

Heart drug may help treat frostbite — study

LONDON (R) — A drug used mainly to treat heart and blood vessel disorders has been successful in treating frostbite, according to an Austrian study published Saturday. Doctor Ernst Groechnig of the Landeskrankehaus (District Hospital) in Feldkirch, Austria, reported in the medical journal Lancet that he had successfully treated five patients — four men and a woman — with the drug, Intravenous Iloprost. They all recovered fully, without the need for amputation. Dr. Groechnig said the patients, who had moderate to severe frostbite after exposure to extremely cold temperatures, were warmed up and then given Iloprost for between 14 and 42 days. "In view of what is known about the pathophysiology of frostbite, we believe that therapy with Iloprost could be a very potent treatment," he said. Serious frostbite can lead to gangrene because cells break down and blood supply is cut off by small clots in the vessels. Iloprost is a derivative of Prostacyclin, a naturally occurring hormone that helps control viscosity of the blood.

Chinese officials flock to Macau casinos

BEIJING (R) — A growing number of officials in China's southern Guangdong province have been flocking to casinos in Macau with embezzled state funds, the Publications Digest said. It said incomplete statistics provided by provincial officials show that more than 100 cases of corruption or embezzlement have been uncovered in recent years involving officials bound for casinos abroad. The embezzled funds totalled more than 100 million yuan (\$11.7 million) and a majority flowed into casinos in the neighbouring Portuguese-run territory of Macau, the daily said in an edition seen in Beijing Friday. About 100 people from an unidentified city in Guangdong travel to Macau each day just to gamble, the newspaper said. Some are influential executives at enterprises while others are government officials. Some "plunge into casinos and gamble like crazy," it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Relaxation of boycott helps Palestinians — King Fahd

CAIRO (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has said the decision of Gulf Arab states to ease their boycott of Israel would serve both the Palestinians and the Middle East peace process at large. The decision announced last month "does not directly serve Israel's interests so much as it represents a step toward the success of efforts to secure a just and global peace," the king told Egypt's semi-official daily Al-Ahram. King Fahd, in the interview published Friday, said the Palestinians would also benefit since they needed foreign investment in the autonomous Gaza Strip and in the West Bank, most of which is still under Israeli occupation. Asked to comment on the arrests of Muslim fundamentalists seeking political reforms in Saudi Arabia, the king insisted his country was "firmly attached to the Muslim religion, from which it draws its wealth and stability." The Saudi interior ministry had freed 130 people and "decided to hold on to 27 others for its investigation," King Fahd said.

Kuwait sees better ties with Jordan

KUWAIT (AFP) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah Thursday voiced hope that Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations would improve. At a joint press conference with his Italian counterpart Antonio Martino who was visiting Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah said if Jordan "continues to act this way, we wish that relations between Jordan and Kuwait would improve." A senior Kuwaiti official Tuesday told AFP that his country was ready to normalise relations with Jordan despite some reservations. These reservations, the officials said, have to do with Kuwait's refusal to receive 400,000 Jordanians and Palestinians who used to work in the emirate before the Gulf crisis. The official, who was not identified by the agency, said that relations between the two countries might be back to normal within the coming three months, noting that Kuwait's policies are now based on gaining more friendly ties, even with states which supported Iraq in its takeover of Kuwait.

Pakistani drug smuggler executed in S. Arabia

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia on Friday executed a Pakistani convicted of smuggling heroin into the country, the official Saudi Press Agency said. It said Qul Khan Amir Afzal was executed in Riyadh but gave no details. Rapists, murderers and drug smugglers are normally beheaded with a sword in public after Friday prayers in Saudi Arabia.

Byzantine church vandalised in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Suspected Jewish extremists have vandalised a Byzantine church in the Nagev desert of southern Israel, the antiquities department said Friday. "We have every reason to believe this vile act of vandalism was carried out by Jewish religious extremists who for months have been sending us threatening letters," spokeswoman Efrat Orbach told AFP. She said the vandals apparently used shovels and picks to demolish mosaics dating back to the sixth century B.C. as well as marble pillars at the church near the town of Domona. Ultra-orthodox Jews campaign against archaeological digs on the grounds that they often desecrate Jewish burial sites. An extremist group called Keshet has even issued death threats against archaeologists.

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